EXHIBIT E

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                     IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                       NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
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     REPUBLIC NATIONAL DISTRIBUTING COMPANY )
 4
                Plaintiff,
                                                CIVIL NO.: RDB-12-2472
           vs.
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     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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                Defendant.
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                          Transcript of Proceedings
                  Before the Honorable Richard D. Bennett
                  Thursday, August 27th, 2015; 11:00 a.m.
10
                            Baltimore, Maryland
11
     For the Plaintiff:
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           Mark J. MacDougall, Esquire
           Nicole Sprinzen, Esquire
           W. Randolph Teslik , Esquire
14
           Connor Mullin, Esquire
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     For the Defendant:
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           Richard Kay, AUSA
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19
20
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22
                         Christine T. Asif, RPR, CRR
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                      Federal Official Court Reporter
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                      101 W. Lombard Street, 4th Floor
                          Baltimore, Maryland 21201
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PROCEEDINGS

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THE COURT: This is calling the matter of Republic National Distributing Company versus United States, Civil Number RDB-12-2472. And this matter is being conducted under seal. And the courtroom will be secured because it relates to the original petition filed by Republic National Distributing Company in August of 2012 for release of \$50 million held in escrow.

And subsequently, as I'll go over in a moment, some \$45 million of that was released, but there's still \$5 million that remains being held in escrow. And we're here today in continuation of the hearing that I conducted, sealed hearing that I conducted on June the 12th of this year.

If counsel would identify themselves for the record, please.

MR. MACDOUGALL: Good morning, Your Honor, for the petitioner, Republic National Distributing Company, Mark MacDougall. With me is Randy Teslik, Nicole Sprinzen, and Connor Mullin. We also have two corporate officers here as witnesses, Tom White and Dennis Bashuk.

THE COURT: Yes. Nice to see you, Mr. MacDougall.

And welcome to all the rest of you. Nice to see you.

And on behalf of the government.

MR. KAY: Good morning, Your Honor, Richard Kay for the United States.

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THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Kay. Nice to see you as well.

Let me just clarify. Let's just go over procedurally where we are here on this, and then we will proceed. And I understand that there's going to be some introduction of some evidence here, and I think you're planning to call two witnesses. Is that right, Mr. MacDougall?

MR. MACDOUGALL: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Essentially, in December of 2012, I held a hearing in light of the petition having been filed by the Republic National in this case in August of 2012, and essentially was on the petition for release of \$50 million in escrow being held at the behest of the government, by counsel for Republic National.

At that hearing, Republic National articulated its objections to Magistrate Judge Gallagher's report and recommendations, essentially, on two findings that Judge Gallagher had made. First, that release of the funds in escrow could not be granted because 18 United States Code, Section 983(f) nor rule 41(g) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure entitled the company to relief.

And essentially, most of the hearing, according to my notes, was focused upon Rule 41(g) with respect to whether or not there had been a deprivation of a property entitling Republic National to some relief. And essentially, Republic

National took the position that the escrow arrangements that were arranged essentially deprived Republic National of the use of those funds.

Essentially, after that hearing, I determined that I would grant in part and deny in part the relief sought at that time by Republic National. Specifically, I accepted Judge Gallagher's finding that Republic National could not seek relief under Section 983(f) of Title 18, which entitles a party to immediate release of seized funds only if the business itself has been seized, citing various case authorities for that proposition.

As for the Rule 41(g) analysis, I rejected Magistrate Judge Gallagher's finding that relief could not be sought under Rule 41(g). And I determined that Republic National had, in fact, suffered a deprivation of property, which permitted the company to seek relief under Rule 41(g). And that the placement of \$50 million in escrow was disproportionate to the alleged criminal conduct that was under investigation.

And therefore, I ordered that \$45 million be released from the escrow account and that \$5 million remain in that account pending the -- escrow account of the law firm -- pending the outcome of any future civil forfeiture proceeding or any criminal investigation. And I signed an order to that effect on or about December 14, 2012.

Have I correctly summarized the procedural posture of

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this case generally from the point of view of the petitioner,
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     Republic National, Mr. MacDougall?
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: Yes, you have, Your Honor.
               THE COURT: Mr. Kay, correct from your point of view?
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               MR. KAY: That's correct.
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               THE COURT: Okay. So the -- that was the status of
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     it, and I entered an order in December of 2012 to that effect.
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     And then the docket entries correctly note that there was no
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     activity on this matter from December of 2012 until May of
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     2015.
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               And then, finally, in May of 2015, at my behest, I
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     asked counsel for the parties, for Republic National, the
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     petitioner, as well as for the government, to submit a status
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     report to me. And the status report was submitted by the
     government, paper No. 20, on May 7th. And it was submitted on
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     May 7th of this year. And it was submitted by Republic
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     National, paper No. 21, on May the 11th.
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               And in light of the status reports that were
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     submitted, I scheduled another hearing, sealed hearing, on
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     Friday, June the 12th of this year, earlier this summer, at
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     which time we conducted a hearing. And there were more
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     specific allegations that were made by the petitioner with
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     respect to the alleged inaccuracies of an affidavit of Special
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     Agent Lisa Ward in the initial application and affidavit for a
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search warrant.

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And I've reviewed the transcript of that hearing, and
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     essentially I agreed that we would conduct a further hearing on
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     this matter. And I issued a letter order, paper No. 27,
     essentially, having a continuation of the hearing from Friday
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     June the 12th until today and established a briefing schedule.
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     And we're now continuing with the hearing today that we began
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     on June the 12th.
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               Once again, have I correctly summarized that from the
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     point of view of you, Mr. MacDougall?
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: Yes, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Mr. Kay, from your point of view?
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               MR. KAY: Yes, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: So that's where we are on this.
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     reason I'm trying to make sure we're clear on that is, is that
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     there does seem to be some suggestion in these submissions by
     the petitioner with respect to the scope of this hearing, and
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     some reference to, essentially, Franks versus Delaware, the
     1978 Supreme Court opinion at 438 U.S. 154 with respect to
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     essentially attacking the affidavit itself. A Franks hearing
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And essentially, the defendant must make, as the 4th Circuit has established in *United States versus Colkley*,

C-o-l-k-l-e-y, 899 F.2d 297, a 4th Circuit opinion in 1990, a

Franks hearing may be held if there's a dual showing that; one,
a defendant makes a substantial preliminary showing that false

may or may not be granted in a -- in a criminal context.

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statements were knowingly and intentionally or with reckless disregard for the truth included by an affiant in a search warrant; and secondarily -- secondly, that the offending information was essential to the probable cause determination.

And I note that in the submissions in the briefing schedule, Republic — the petitioner, Republic National has not only moved for the release of the remaining funds held in escrow, which is essentially the gravamen of the original petition here, but also striking the affidavit from the record of the case and vacating the seizure warrant, which essentially would be a guasi Franks versus Delaware matter.

And as to that, I don't see anywhere that I've indicated -- this is not a Franks versus Delaware hearing.

I've indicated and I'll certainly hear -- I've reviewed the affidavit. I'll certainly hear from any witnesses either side wants to call, and I'll certainly review any exhibits that are submitted. All of it in the context of whether or not the remaining \$5 million should be released, which would give the Republic National the complete but only relief that was initially sought.

And I don't know -- and Mr. MacDougall, before we get started, this Court does not need to make a finding with respect to the validity or lack thereof of the affidavit of Special Agent Lisa Ward or many of the other issues you've raised or I don't even need to vacate the seizure warrant in

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     order to release the remaining funds under Rule 41(g); correct?
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: I agree with that, Your Honor.
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     if I may be heard.
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               THE COURT: Sure.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: And we certainly agree with the
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     Court that this is not a Franks hearing, and we have not
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     requested that government agents or government witnesses be
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     available for testimony. We do have witnesses as we explained
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     to the Court.
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               THE COURT: Sure. You want to show some
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     inaccuracies, and I've essentially said that's fine in terms of
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     my getting the full flavor of what this case is about.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: I agree with that. The relief that
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     is sought under the Rule 41(q) motion is a release of the
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     money. The Court does certainly have the authority to strike
     any pleading and vacate any order if it finds appropriate basis
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     for doing that. And we will urge the Court at the end of the
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     evidence today to consider that as appropriate relief.
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               THE COURT: Okay. I understand. I guess my point
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     is, is that so we put this in appropriate context. My view is
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     I'm certainly willing to hear evidence from either side in
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     terms of the entire scenario here, in terms of whether or not
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     there has -- let's say if there had been mistakes made or
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     misunderstandings in the context of what would be the basis to
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     continue to hold $5 million. Essentially, you've already --
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you basically received 90 percent of the relief you sought.
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               The government is free to take whatever steps it
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     chooses in any kind of investigation or file into a civil
     forfeiture action. This being a related case, if there were to
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 5
     be any criminal case brought from this or any civil forfeiture
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     action, it would come to me. It would be assigned to me by the
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     clerk of the Court.
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               But I don't know that we're there yet, I guess, is
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     what we're saying. This is a petition for return of funds and
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     that's in the context in which the Court is addressing it. But
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     I'd be glad to hear from either side in terms of any evidence
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     one wants to present. It remains to be seen if I think that it
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     would be appropriate to strike the affidavit from the record or
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     vacate the seizure warrant itself.
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               I don't know that we're there yet, Mr. MacDougall.
     I'm just verifying that that preliminary view that I have of
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     the matter does not in any way prejudice your client's right to
     be back here to continue the hearing to seek return of the
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     remaining $5 million. So I think that's where we are.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: I agree with that, Your Honor.
     Thank you.
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               THE COURT: Okay. And just to clarify again, the $5
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     million is remaining in an escrow account in your law firm's
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     escrow account; is that right?
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: That's right. Yes.
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THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

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Mr. Kay, do you want to be heard on this generally? I'm not -- you noted in your papers that a Franks versus

Delaware hearing is in a criminal context and a motion to suppress, not in a Rule 41(g) return of property. And I've not -- just to your understanding, I'm not ordering a Franks versus Delaware hearing, nor am I expecting the case agent,

Lisa Ward, in this matter, who is the affiant, who the record reflects is also your spouse, your wife, I'm not expecting her to testify.

You know, you choose to do what you want to do in terms of response to the affidavit. This is not a quasi Franks versus Delaware hearing. I'm just trying to address the matter in light of the length of time here in terms of whether or not there's a basis for the government to continue to hold on or require the law firm of Akin Gump to hold on to \$5 million in an escrow account.

That's essentially where I am. If you have any other thoughts about what's going to be conducted here today, I'd be glad to hear from you.

MR. KAY: No, Your Honor. I think you've summarized it exactly right. I agree with the Court. I just want to say one thing about the *Franks* context. And I think that what Mr. MacDougall has suggested is that it's one way to examine the inaccuracies that he's suggested are here. And the

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government does not oppose that. We're not saying that this is a Franks context. We're just saying that he's saying that there's some sort of technique to analogize to Franks to just say whether it's a proper way to analyze what we've got here. I think that that's fair.
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THE COURT: And just so both of you understand, for example, there are essentially, I think, three alleged inaccuracies. And I've already noted in the papers submitted that two of those three, apparently, there appears to be some acknowledgment by the government that it was more in the matter of a theory than actual facts, which is educational for me in terms of whether there's some viable possibility, we're talking about international movement of money, for example.

Apparently -- again, Mr. Kay, I'll hear from you later. Apparently, the response has been that that isn't a specific allegation, but it's a theory. So the fact that it's a theory and not a specific allegation, in all candor, is further help to me to understand what the need would be to hold on to \$5 million for any continued period of time without a way to deal with that.

So it is helpful for me to hear that, and it will certainly effect my judgment in terms of, you know, the matter of whether I do or don't grant the ultimate relief, which is sought, which is the release of the remaining \$5 million. So it will be helpful to me to hear testimony. I'm certainly

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     willing to do so in that context. So with that, we're
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     continuing on, as I've said, with the hearing that we started
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     in June.
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               And Mr. MacDougall, I'll be glad to hear from you in
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     terms of any witnesses you want to present or any exhibits
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     you'd like to introduce, and then I'll hear from the
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     government. Go right ahead.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor. If I may be
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     heard for a moment by way of opening. And does the Court
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     prefer the lecturn --
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               THE COURT: You can stand behind the table. I was a
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     great roamer myself, Mr. MacDougall. So you can sit down -- if
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     you're addressing the Court, I want you to stand up. But you
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     can stay behind the table, you can go behind the podium.
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     don't think you need to go by the jury box, but if it makes you
     feel comfortable, go ahead and do that too.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: It would, Your Honor, but I'll
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     restrain myself.
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               THE COURT: That's fine. Go ahead.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor. As the Court
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     noted, we are going to ask the Court at the conclusion of this
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     hearing to consider three forms of relief. The first is the
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     release of the $5 million that the Court has noted was the
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     relief sought when the initial petition was filed.
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               The second is to strike Agent Ward's affidavit of
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     June 5th, 2012 because of the inaccuracies and the misleading
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     nature of it. And the third is to vacate the seizure warrant
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     that was signed by Magistrate Judge Gallagher that day.
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               We're going to offer the Court the testimony of two
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     witnesses. They're here today. The first is Dennis Bashuk.
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     Mr. Bashuk is the long time treasurer for Republic National.
 7
     He's based in Atlanta and he's the national treasurer for the
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     company.
9
               The other witness is Thomas White. Mr. White is the
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     regional president for Republic and is responsible for the full
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     operations in five eastern states, including the state of
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     Maryland.
               We will be offering in evidence three sets of bank
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               Those records are for three of the accounts that were
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     records.
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     seized and those are the accounts that are cited in the agent's
     affidavit as being the source of transfer of funds overseas.
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     And the transfer of funds overseas is critical to what we're
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     trying to prove here today, Your Honor.
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               Mr. Kay, I would note, has agreed to stipulate to
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     both authenticity and admissibility of those records, so we
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     don't have a Wells Fargo custodian here today.
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               MR. KAY: That's correct, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Thank you.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: Your Honor, I would also ask the
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witnesses -- ask the Court's permission to allow the witnesses

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***SEALED***
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to use two demonstrative exhibits, which are accumulations of
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     large bodies of data -- of evidence. And again, those have
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     been produced to Mr. Kay.
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               MR. KAY: Your Honor, I've not seen those exhibits
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     yet.
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               THE COURT: Okay. Why don't you just take a look at
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     those, Mr. Kay. We'll get there eventually.
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                         They've not provided them, Your Honor.
               MR. KAY:
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               THE COURT: Okay, whatever. But I think they're
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     about to be.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: They should have. Sorry about that.
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               So Your Honor, the evidence that the Court will hear
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     today is going to show that this is an old company. At the
     time of the affidavit and the time of the search warrant -- the
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15
     seizure warrant, it was doing business in 22 states with more
     than 7,000 employees, about 350 of whom are here in Maryland.
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               The Court's going to hear convincing evidence.
     the five seized accounts, there were no material international
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19
     transfers and substantially, all of Republic's purchases of
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     product which exceeds $4 billion a year were paid to U.S. banks
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     and U.S. companies. Now, some of those U.S. companies are
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     affiliates and associates of -- affiliates and subsidiaries of
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     foreign companies, some are not. Some are foreign
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     manufacturers that are subsidiaries of U.S. companies.
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               But the important point to us, Your Honor, is there
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is no evidence -- and the Court will hear this evidence. There's no evidence in the records of the bank and the evidence that Agent Ward reviewed, the records she reviewed, to show wire transfers or any kind of transfers going from this company in a material way over to another country as required by Section 1956(a)(2)(A).

The Court will also hear evidence about the Cecil County stores that are the focus of the affidavit and the focus of Mr. Kay's investigation. There are two stores noted in the affidavit: North Side and Cecil County. The Court will hear evidence that will not be disputed that the business generated by those stores is an infinitesimally small part of Republic's National business and a very small part of its Maryland business.

If you were to accumulate all of the sales to those stores over the period of the investigation, it would be a very small fraction of \$50 million. And, in fact, a fraction of \$5 million. And the reason that that evidence will be important, Your Honor, is the critical goal -- and I think the evidence will be convincing -- the critical goal of Mr. Kay and Ms. Ward and the government was to convince Magistrate Judge Gallagher that this was an international money laundering case. And the international money laundering statute requires movement of money from the United States offshore. And there is no evidence of that. And through what we believe the Court will

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find to be creative drafting in the affidavit, that evidence is
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 2
     clear.
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               The Court will also hear from Mr. Bashuk and
     Mr. White that on the day that the affidavit was filed and the
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 5
     next day when the warrant was served on Wells Fargo, there was
 6
     a purpose of -- there was a focus on that day. And the reason
 7
     for that was that's the date paychecks go out. And but for a
 8
     mistake that was made in the affidavit
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                      instead of an account owned by Republic,
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     which caused Wells Fargo to reject the warrant --
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               THE COURT:
                               , being apparently
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     another subject of inquiry in addition to Republic.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: Yes, Your Honor. I think that's in
14
     the records of this case.
15
               THE COURT: Yes.
               MR. MACDOUGALL: But for that mistake, 7,000
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     paychecks would have bounced nationwide. Some did actually
     bounce. And the evidence that the Court is going to hear is
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19
     going to make clear that this was not about freezing assets in
20
     order to recover the proceeds of prospective or alleged crime.
21
     It was about putting a thumb on the carotid artery of the
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     company and putting maximum pressure on the company and then
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     demanding $50 million, which for almost any company is an
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     enormous amount of money in order to settle the case.
25
     company rejected that effort and that's why we're here today.
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THE COURT: Well, ultimately, Republic National did
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 2
     put $50 million in escrow that triggered your petitioned in
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     August to get that money back and triggered the hearing in
 4
     December, ultimately, when I ordered that 45 of the 50 million
 5
     be released; correct?
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: That's right. And by very clear
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     inference from this evidence, the Court is going to be able to
 8
     conclude that the effort by the government to put a
 9
     stranglehold on the company was really what this was all about.
               One of the reasons that the Court can believe that is
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11
     that once it was clear that the amount of money that had been
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     seized was many, many times the maximum theoretical amount that
     could have been actually proceeds of crime under Mr. Kay's
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14
     theory, the government did nothing. They -- there was no
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     discussion of, you know, "Well, let's drop it down to 5
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     million, we had to come to this court and ask the Court for
     relief."
17
               And to this day there is still no effort on the
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19
     government's part to say, "Maybe we grabbed too much. Maybe we
20
     took too much." Because if you take the international money
21
     laundering factor out of the seizure warrant and you're just
22
     left with wire fraud and 1957, the only funds that can be
23
     seized are the proceeds of the offense --
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               THE COURT: Specifically from Cecil County.
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: Yes, sir. That's right. And so
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back in 2012, in June 2012, if those two statutes were the
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2
     basis for the seizure warrant without the international money
 3
     laundering, all the government could have possibly seized would
     have been several hundred thousand dollars.
 4
 5
               But that wasn't the plan, the plan as the evidence
     will show, was to seize a very large amount of money and put
 6
7
     maximum pressure on this company to come in write a check to
8
     get out of this situation. So that's essentially the evidence
9
     the Court will hear.
10
               And with the Court's approval, we'll call our first
11
     witness.
12
               THE COURT: All right. Just so I can, the references
13
     you're making in terms of the possible violations of any money
14
     laundering statute, 18, united States Code, Sections
15
     1956(a)(2)(A) and 1957. 1956(a)(2)(A) is the international
     aspect of that money laundering statute; correct?
16
17
               MR. MACDOUGALL: That's right.
18
               THE COURT: 1957 is the more basic domestic aspect of
19
     money laundering; correct?
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               MR. MACDOUGALL: That's correct.
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               THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Do you want to be
22
     heard any further in the opening statement, Mr. Kay, before we
23
     hear testimony?
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               MR. KAY: Your Honor, just -- I think it might help
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     to clarify one point. And that's about the 1957 --
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THE COURT: 1957 is not an international money
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     laundering charge. 1956(a)(2)(A) is; correct?
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               MR. KAY: That's correct. But one thing that Mr. --
               THE COURT: And the company has not been charged with
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 5
     that, but that was the basis of the application and affidavit
 6
     for the search warrant.
 7
               MR. KAY: Exactly so, Your Honor. I just wanted to
 8
     point one thing out. Mr. MacDougall did say that the only
 9
     thing that is seizable or forfeitable in relation to a 1957,
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     the domestic violation, is the proceeds. And that's not true.
11
     They've cited an incorrect case in their materials, a case
12
     called United States versus Moore.
               The proper case, Your Honor, is United States versus
13
14
     Kivanc, K-i-v-a-n-c. It's found at 714 F.3d 782. It's a 4th
15
     Circuit published case, Your Honor. And in that case it says
     specifically -- was the holding of the case that under section
16
17
     981, "any real or personal property involved in a money
     laundering transaction in violation of section 1957 is subject
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19
     to civil forfeiture and consequently when legitimate funds are
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     commingled with property involved in money laundering or
21
     purchased with criminally derived proceeds" -- the entire
22
     property, the entire property, Your Honor, including the
23
     legitimate funds is subject to forfeiture. So he's just wrong
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     about that, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Again, just to clarify, Mr. Kay, on that
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     legal point, it's subject to legal forfeiture.
 2
               MR. KAY: That's correct.
 3
               THE COURT: As a result of a civil forfeiture
     action.
 4
 5
               MR. KAY: Correct. And it can be seized in
 6
     anticipation --
 7
               THE COURT: I know it can be seized. But the point
 8
     is, is that the matter of it being potentially subject to a
 9
     civil forfeiture action in the event of a successful civil
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     forfeiture action is somewhat distinct from -- not that it can
11
     be seized, but it's somewhat distinct from the matter of
     whether or not there need to be an escrow amount as to that
12
13
     amount.
14
               MR. KAY: That's correct. Your Honor --
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               THE COURT: That's what's before me. I'm not going
     to have to decide that today. It may be that I rule against
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17
     the government and say that the $5 million has to be released,
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     the petition is granted, and this case is closed, and awaits
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     whether or not there are further developments. But I don't
20
     know that I need to necessarily decide that --
21
               MR. KAY: That's exactly right. I didn't want the
22
     wrong legal case to be before the Court. I've got a copy of
23
     Kivanc --
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               THE COURT: That's fine. I'm reasonably familiar
25
     with what you're speaking.
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Okay. With that, I'll be glad to hear from your
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 2
     first witness, Mr. MacDougall.
 3
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor.
 4
     petitioner Republic calls Dennis Bashuk.
 5
               THE COURT: Mr. Bash, if you'll come forward, please.
 6
     By the way, is the person here in the back of the courtroom, is
 7
     she with one of the teams here?
 8
               MR. KAY: She's a special agent with ICE, Your
 9
     Honor.
10
               THE COURT: All right. She's certainly welcome to
11
     come sit at the table.
12
               Do you have any objection with that, Mr. MacDougall?
13
               MR. MACDOUGALL: No objection.
               THE COURT: She's certainly welcome. Do you want her
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15
     to come to the table?
               MR. KAY: Not necessary, Your Honor.
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17
               THE CLERK: Sir, please raise your right hand.
18
               THE COURT: Good morning.
19
20
                               DENNIS BASHUK,
21
     called as a witness, being first duly sworn, was examined and
     testified as follows:
22
23
               THE WITNESS: I do.
2.4
               THE CLERK: Thank you. Please be seated. State and
25
     spell your last name for the record.
```

```
1
                THE WITNESS: Dennis Bashuk, B-a-s-h-u-k.
2
               THE CLERK: Thank you.
 3
                             DIRECT EXAMINATION
 4
     BY MR. MACDOUGALL:
 5
          Good morning, Mr. Bashuk.
 6
          Good morning.
     Α
 7
          Tell the Court what is your occupation, please?
8
          I am the treasurer for Republic National Distributing
9
     Company.
10
          How long have you had that job?
11
     Α
          11 years.
12
          Okay. Could you speak a little bit closer to the
     microphone, please?
13
14
               THE COURT: Pull it down closer to you, you'll be
15
     fine. Just pull the microphone down -- there you go. You're
16
     good.
17
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) And Mr. Bashuk, before joining
     Republic, what job did you have then?
18
19
          I worked for a smaller wholesaler in Massachusetts in a
20
     financial position.
21
          Where did you go to school?
     Q
22
          Went to graduate school at Indiana University and
23
     undergraduate at the State University of New York at
2.4
     Binghamton.
25
          So you've been Republic's treasurer for about 12 years?
```

- A 11, little less than 11.

 Q Okay. How would you describe Republic's business?

 A We're in the business of distributing beverage and
- 5 Q How many states does Republic do business?

nonbeverage alcohol in the United States.

- 6 A 26 states and the District of Columbia.
- 7 Q You used the word "wholesale," what is a wholesaler in the liquor industry? What does he do?
- 9 A We're the middleman. We buy the product from the
 10 suppliers and then we sell to the retail who then sells to the
 11 consumers.
- 12 | Q Where does a wholesaler obtain product?
- 13 A We buy the product from our suppliers.
- 14 | Q And where do you sell it?
- A We sell it in states to package stores, to restaurants, to grocery stores and any other outlet that has a license to sell
- 17 product.

4

- 18 Q So would it be fair to say a wholesaler is a middleman?
- 19 A It is a middleman, yes.
- 20 Q Now, can a wholesaler sell to an individual customer? Can
- 21 | I walk into the warehouse in Jessup, Maryland and buy
- 22 something?
- 23 A No.
- 24 Q Why not?
- 25 A It's against the law. State of Maryland and the federal

1 laws prohibit that. 2 Okay. 3 You know, state laws may vary a little bit, but generally speaking, that's against the law. 4 5 What was the total approximate revenue of Republic in the 6 calendar year, fiscal year 2011? 7 Α \$4 and a half dollars. 8 That's nationwide? 9 Α Yes. 10 And how about in 2012? 11 Α 5.2 billion dollars. 12 What was the total capital or shareholders equity of 13 Republic at the end of 2011? Just short of a billion dollars. 14 15 And how about the end of 2012? 16 Little bit more than that, but still less than a 17 billion. 18 Now, you're treasurer of Republic. Can you tell us, 19 please, what your responsibilities involve? 20 The cash flow management of the company and managing the 21 bank relationships. 22 And where does Republic maintain its primary banking 23 relationship? 2.4 Well, we have three credit facilities, and Wells Fargo is 25 the lead bank and most of our actual bank accounts are with

1 Wells Fargo. 2 How long has that relationship lasted? 3 Well, before Wells Fargo, Wachovia Bank, they had merged. Wachovia was our bank and our owners had a relationship with 4 5 the Wachovia/Wells Fargo Bank for probably 20 years. 6 What kind of depository services, depository services does 7 Wells Fargo provide? 8 In most of the markets we have a physical account, a 9 depository account, so at the end of the night we will scan 10 checks into those accounts. 11 And about how many depository accounts does Republic 12 currently maintain with Wells Fargo? 13 At Wells Fargo we have about 12 or 13. 14 And was that general -- I'm sorry? 15 12 or 13 depository only accounts at Wells Fargo. 16 Okay. How many total accounts do you have at Wells Q 17 Fargo? About 33. 18 19 And was that true in 2011, 2012? 20 We may have had a couple less. We've done some mergers in 21 some markets that didn't exist back then, but close to 30. 22 Why does Republic have so many bank accounts? 23 Well, we have disbursement accounts that we use for 2.4 different reasons. We have a payroll account, we have a 25 payables account which we use for physical checks. We have an

```
EFT account, which is primarily ACH, so a lot of the big wine
 1
 2
     and spirit suppliers get paid electronically that way. We may
 3
     do wires to some of the smaller wineries as well. And so we
     segregate for accounting purposes the different accounts.
 4
 5
          And how about credit services, what credit services does
 6
     Wells Fargo provide?
 7
          Like I said, they're one of our big lenders, they're also
 8
     the lead in one of our big credit facilities, which is a
 9
     ten-bank, bank group.
10
          Mr. Bashuk, I'm going to ask you to have a look at what's
11
     being marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 1 for identification.
12
               MR. MACDOUGALL: And for Mr. Kay's purposes, that's
13
     the chart captioned Master Concentration Account. May I
14
     approach the witness, Your Honor.
15
               THE COURT: Yes certainly.
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Your Honor, we had provided the
16
17
     Court with copies of those exhibits in advance.
               THE COURT: Yes. I don't have them with me, but I'm
18
19
     certain -- thank you very much.
20
               We have a local rule 107.5, an exhibit is deemed to
21
     be introduced once it's referenced unless there's any
22
     objection. I gather there is no objection to this, Mr. Kay?
23
               MR. KAY: No, Your Honor.
2.4
               THE COURT: This will be already in evidence. It's
25
     in evidence now.
```

```
1
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor.
2
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Take a look, please, at Exhibit 1 now
     Q
 3
     in evidence, Mr. Bashuk. Were you involved in the preparation
     of this chart?
 4
 5
          I was.
 6
          What was your factual basis for preparing the chart?
 7
          These represent the bank accounts that we have at Wells
8
     Farqo.
9
          And do you believe this chart would assist you in your
10
     testimony concerning the banking activities and cash management
11
     activities of Republic?
12
          Yes, it will.
13
          Okay. Would you please describe what the chart shows?
14
          Of the 33 accounts, the top section are primarily
     disbursement accounts. I mentioned earlier we have payable
15
     accounts and payroll accounts and EFT accounts that we use to
16
17
     pay our suppliers. The bottom set of accounts are the
18
     depository accounts in the markets that we use Wells Fargo
19
     depository services.
20
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Your Honor, if I may ask, we'd next
     like to have the witness testify concerning some references in
21
22
     the affidavit. The affidavit I assume is part of the record in
23
     this case. We could have it marked as an exhibit --
2.4
               THE COURT: Why don't we introduce it as Plaintiff's
25
     Exhibit -- this whole proceeding is sealed, obviously, so yet
```

```
1
     that can be introduced as well, certainly.
 2
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor may I
 3
     approach?
 4
               THE COURT: Absolutely. Have the clerk mark that
 5
     that's Plaintiff's Exhibit. I have a copy of the affidavit up
     here. That's Plaintiff's Exhibit 2. This is the affidavit of
 6
 7
     Special Agent Lisa Ward of the Department of Homeland Security,
 8
     Immigration Customs Enforcement. Is that correct, Mr. Kay?
 9
               MR. KAY: That's correct.
10
               THE COURT: That's fine. You may go ahead,
11
     Mr. MacDougall.
12
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you.
13
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Are you familiar with this affidavit,
14
     Mr. Bashuk?
15
         I am.
       How did you become aware of its existence?
16
17
          During this process it came to my --
18
               MR. KAY: Your Honor, can he move a little closer? I
19
     can't hear a word he's saying.
20
               THE COURT: Sure. Just pull it up. I can hear him.
     Pull up closer, that's fine.
21
22
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) I'd like you to please have a look at
23
     Exhibit 2 in evidence, petitioner's Exhibit 2, at the first
2.4
     page in particular. The first sentence talks about -- "the
25
     affidavit is submitted in support of an application for seizure
```

1 warrants for the following bank accounts." Do you see that? 2 I do. Α 3 Immediately thereafter, there's a list of five bank accounts captioned A through E. Do you see those? 4 5 I do. Α 6 What's the -- what entity is the owner of those accounts? 7 Do you recognize those accounts? 8 I do. That's Republic National Distributing Company. 9 And with respect to paragraphs A through E where each of 10 those accounts is identified, the same language appears at the 11 end of each phrase, "located in Baltimore Maryland." Is that 12 true? 13 It is not. I mean there is one account that probably has 14 a physical location in Jessup, Maryland, that would be the 15 depository account we use for Jessup, but you know, we scan the checks and we don't actually disburse any funds from Maryland, 16 17 let alone Baltimore. 18 Where are these five accounts actually located? 19 Well, Atlanta. It's another -- I'm sure, a branch in 20 Jessup, Maryland that would recognize that account number but they were all established in Atlanta. 21 22 Going back to Exhibit 1, if you would please, the chart, 23 are the five accounts listed in Agent Ward's affidavit depicted 2.4 in this chart? 25 Α They are.

```
If you would please identify each one. And for everyone's
 1
 2
     convenience, I'll just read them off from the affidavit.
 3
               Paragraph --
 4
                THE COURT: You might be able to actually -- if he
 5
     touches the screen there, Mr. MacDougall, it will actually show
 6
     up on the screen. It would be helpful to me to -- maybe it
 7
     highlight them as well. He can actually just touch the screen
 8
     there and then he can -- when he's finished, he could touch the
 9
     bottom of the screen and it will go off. But he can just touch
10
     each one of those accounts that he's referencing -- along with
11
     testifying.
12
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor.
13
           (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Mr. Bashuk, can you identify in the
14
     chart, please, the first account which ends in the letters
15
     9332?
          Is it -- that one right there.
16
17
          Okay. And that account is caption No. 109 Jessup,
18
     Maryland; is that right?
19
          Yes.
                That's the depository account we use in Jessup.
20
          Paragraph B identifies an account with the last four
21
     digits 9227. Do you see that here in the chart?
22
          I do.
     Α
23
          Where is that?
2.4
          That one is right here.
     Α
25
          And what is that account called?
     Q
```

1 Α That is our receivable securitization account, and what we 2 do with that is we roll up all the individual depository 3 accounts into that every night. We have a credit facility that actually uses the receivables as collateral, so that's required 4 5 under our loan agreement. 6 Paragraph C ends in the digits 9442. Again, the account 7 is not named, but could you identify where that is in the 8 chart? 9 That one is right here. And that is what we call our 10 concentration account, and that's the account where all the 11 activity of the company rolls up at the end of every night 12 through a process called ZBA banking. 13 What does ZBA mean? 14 Zero balance account. So all the accounts underneath will 15 either be funded if there's a shortfall, or if there's -- in the case of depository accounts, if there's cash in the 16 17 accounts, those will ultimately move up to that account. The debits and the credits will net. So in that case, the 18 19 disbursements and the collections will net for the most part 20 and any shortfall will be funded by our revolver and any excess 21 will go to pay down the revolver. 22 The next one is paragraph D. It ends in four digits 5227. 23 Where is that in the chart? 2.4 That is a disbursement account that we use in Louisiana 25 for both the State of Louisiana and our, what we call our

```
1
     control state business.
2
          The last account captioned E ends in the digits 9264.
 3
     Where is that in the chart?
          That is up here. This is a disbursement account that we
 4
 5
     use to pay our suppliers, electrical ones, that we pay
 6
     electronically as well as to pay for customs, activity, and for
7
     taxes.
8
          Okay. Let me please direct your attention to the Maryland
9
     account --
10
               THE COURT: And actually, just for the record, so
11
     it's helpful for me, Mr. MacDougall, those five accounts have
12
     all got red highlighting ink on the exhibit, Plaintiff's
13
     Exhibit 1.
14
               MR. MACDOUGALL: That's correct, Your Honor.
15
               THE COURT: Okay.
               MR. MACDOUGALL: That's specifically to identify --
16
17
               THE COURT: Yes, thank you.
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Mr. Bashuk, let's start with the
18
19
     Maryland account, Jessup No. 109. The account ends in the
20
     digits 9332. What's the primary purpose of this account?
21
          Its only purpose is for supplier -- or for
22
     customer-related activity. So we deposit all of our checks at
23
     the end of the night into that account, either physically or
2.4
     scanned in electronically.
25
          What is the primary purpose of that account in 2012?
```

The same. It's for customer deposits. 1 Α 2 Do you recall sitting here today -- what was the 3 approximate annual total of deposits, deposits into this account in 2011? 4 5 So our revenue in Maryland would have been about \$330 6 million. So for the most part, that would have been the 7 deposit for the year. 8 So all the revenue collected in Maryland by the company 9 goes into that account. That's where you deposit the money. 10 For Maryland, yes. 11 Okay. Now, how, mechanically, are collections deposited 12 into that account? How does that happen? 13 So we will have -- most of the customers will mail checks 14 to the office. In some cases a driver or salesperson may pick it up. At the end of the night there will be an administrative 15 person that will then combine all those checks and now, even in 16 17 2012, they then bundle them up and they would scan them into 18 the system so they would go right to the bank from our 19 warehouse. 20 And once they're transferred into this account, once 21 they're deposited, where does the money go after that? 22 Once it's cleared, funds, just like all the other 23 depository accounts, those will then ZBA up to that 2.4 securitization account ending in 9277. 25 So there will be a single wire into that 9277 account from

1 all of these depository accounts. And in addition, there's 2 another account for the non Wells Fargo that will also get 3 wired into that secure -- all the collections from other customers and non Wells Fargo locations will end up in that 4 5 account as well every night. 6 And that securitization account is 9277. That's right 7 dead center in the middle of the chart; right? 8 Correct. 9 And is it correct that the Maryland account that you've 10 just testified to is one of, it looks like about a dozen accounts that all flow into that securitization account? 11 12 Correct. Α 13 Now, is money from the Maryland account ever transferred 14 anywhere else other than to securitization account? 15 No, just up to that other account. And more specifically, are funds from the Maryland account 16 17 ever transferred to accounts outside of the United States? 18 No. 19 Q Was that true in 2011? 20 Α Yes. Was it true in 2012? 21 Q 22 Α Yes. 23 Okay. I'd like you to turn next to the second account, 2.4 the receivable securitization account, which is No. 9227, and 25 it's the one we just mentioned in the center of the chart. Do

you see that? 1 2 Yes, I do. 3 Why is it called receivable securitization account? Because we've got a particular credit facility where we 4 5 actually securitize our receivables. So we technically sell 6 them to the bank and we create a security out of them. So 7 that's the proper name for the account. 8 And where did the funds in this account -- deposited in 9 this account, originate? 10 From all the individual depository accounts. 11 Do you know what the approximate annual total deposits to 12 this account were in 2011? 13 Very close to the 4 and a half million dollars, because 14 again, we have another incoming wire every night from the non 15 Wells Fargo collection accounts. 16 And how would that account, the total deposits to that 17 account compare to the total revenue reported by the company 18 for the same period? 19 Very close, if not exact. 20 So what happens to funds after they're deposited in the receivable securitization account? 21 22 Again, those go through -- it's an electronic transfer, 23 it's a very quick process. So it ultimately ends up in the 2.4 master account ending in 9442. 25 And just to be clear, your testimony a couple minutes ago

regarding the entire flow of funds into the account, did you 1 2 intend to say million or billion? 3 Billion. 4 and a half billion dollars. I apologize. 4 Your testimony just a second ago was that the funds from 5 the receivable securitization account flow into the master 6 concentration account. Do they go anywhere else? 7 Α No. 8 Okay. More specifically, are funds from the receivable 9 securitization account ever transferred outside the United 10 States? 11 Α No. 12 Was that true in 2011? 13 Yes. Was it true in 2012? 14 Q 15 Α Yes. 16 Mr. Bashuk, the third account I'd like you to talk about 17 for a moment is the master concentration account. That's number 9442. On the chart that appears at the center of the 18 19 top, do you see that? 20 I do. Α 21 Why is it called that name? 22 Well, it's the concentration account because it 23 concentrates all of our disbursements and collections. 2.4 just the main account, so it's called the master account. 25 And where do funds that are deposited in that account

```
1
     originate?
 2
          Well, the collections will again roll up through the
 3
     securitization account. The disbursements -- so we will -- you
     know, we will, at the end of the night the ZBA process, all the
 4
 5
     disbursement activity -- we will fund those accounts from this
 6
     account. All the collections will go -- what happens is we'll
 7
     net the debits and the credits. And if there's a shortfall to
 8
     fund those disbursement accounts, we'll draw down the loan to
 9
     do that. And if there's excess, we'll pay down the loan after
10
     the cash that sits there is used to pay the, you know, to pay
11
     for all the other disbursements.
12
               MR. MACDOUGALL: May I approach the witness, Your
13
     Honor.
14
               THE COURT: Yes, sir.
15
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Mr. Bashuk, I'm going to hand you a
     binder that's been marked Petitioner's Exhibit No. 3 for
16
17
     identification.
               Your Honor, this is the first of three sets of bank
18
19
     records that I believe the government has stipulated to both
20
     admissibility and --
21
               THE COURT: All right. So admitted.
22
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor.
23
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Are you familiar with these
2.4
     statements?
25
          I am.
     Α
```

1 Q Where are they produced? 2 At Wells Fargo. Α 3 When are they received by Republic in the ordinary course of business? 4 5 Monthly. 6 And now the binder that you have in front of you, 7 Petitioner's Exhibit 3, what time periods are reflected in 8 there? 9 This is May of 2011 through May of 2012. 10 How does the master concentration account and the activity 11 reflected in those statements relate to Republic's credit facilities? 12 13 Well, again, all of the activity contained here, all of 14 the expenses will be funded from, again, the credit facility of 15 which Wells Fargo is one of the participants. What's the average overnight balance in the master 16 concentration account? 17 Again, it varies. Theoretically, it should be zero, but 18 19 there's always timing issues. Because again, the goal is any 20 excess cash that sits in that account should be swept to pay 21 down the loan. Any shortfalls will be funded and then 22 distributed downward to the other disbursement accounts. 23 And is that zero balance phenomena reflected in the statements in front of you as Exhibit 3? 2.4 25 Yes. Yes, you can see the debits and the credits where

1 all the accounts net to zero. 2 How are these authorized every day? Who approves the 3 zeroing out of the account every day? This is all an automated process. 4 5 So it's not authorized by anyone at Republic or Wells 6 Farqo? 7 Α No. 8 It just happens? 9 It just happens. Α 10 How does Republic make payroll and pay for the products 11 themselves generally? 12 Well, again, when we make payroll, we'll do -- most of our 13 employees have direct deposits and so we have payroll accounts where that actually goes through the federal system and we fund 14 15 the individual bank accounts of our employees. 16 The payment of product is done several ways. Some of the 17 smaller companies, we'll write checks to. We've got some wineries overseas where we will potentially wire money. But 18 19 for the most part, all of our large suppliers, both the wine 20 and spirit, they will -- actually take the money via ACH, out 21 of that EFT account. So they give us a notice a few days 22 beforehand and then they actually draw the funds out of that 23 account. 2.4 Have you taken time to review the 12 months statements 25 that you have in front of you as Exhibit 3 from May of 2011 to

1 May of 2012 before testifying today? 2 Α Yes. 3 Did you identify any wire transfers from the master 4 concentration account to accounts outside the United States? 5 Some small overseas wine companies. 6 Okay. About how many did you find? 7 Α Less than 100. 8 Okay. What was the purpose of those wires? 9 Again, to pay for some boutique wine in South America or 10 Europe. 11 You previously testified that in the year that we're 12 talking about, 2011 to 2012 -- I'm sorry. 2011, the revenue 13 was about 4 and a half billion dollars. What was the total value of those wires to the boutique wine merchants? 14 15 Little bit more than a million and a half dollars. 16 All right. I'd like to ask you to now turn to the 17 Louisiana and Control States EFT account, which is 5227 on the chart. 18 19 Α Okay. 20 And that is in the top full row or the second row. total, it ends in 5227. Do you see that? 21 22 I do. Α 23 What is that account, what is the Louisiana and Control 2.4 States EFT? 25 Kind of have a separate -- at least at the time, we had a

separate accounting department in Louisiana. So they were 1 2 responsible for doing the accounting for the State of 3 Louisiana. And then our control states, which are, you know, brokerage relationships -- but most of the control states, I 4 5 mean, we don't take inventory, so we would have made payments 6 for just the normal Louisiana business plus the nonalcoholic 7 purchases in the control states. 8 Would you tell the Court how an EFT works, what that is? 9 Well, again EFT would be either an ACH or wire. And we 10 actually, in this account, would do both. And so in the case 11 of a supplier who debited our account via the ACH, we set up a, 12 you know, a template with that supplier. They send us a 13 notification and then a couple days later the actual funds will move from our account to theirs. 14 15 What's a control state? Could you describe that in a little more detail? 16 17 It's a state where the state actually controls the 18 distribution of the liquor and we act as a broker and we get a 19 commission for helping them to do that. But they actually, you 20 know, manage the inventory in their stores or whatever, every 21 state is a little bit different, but our role is not to take, 22 you know, the inventory or deliver it. 23 So states like Virginia who have state liquor stores would 2.4 be an example of a control state? 25 Α Virginia, yes for spirits.

```
1
     Q
          Is Maryland a control state?
 2
          It is not.
     Α
 3
               MR. MACDOUGALL: May I approach the witness, Your
 4
     Honor?
 5
                THE COURT: Yes, certainly.
 6
           (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Mr. Bashuk, I'm going to ask you to
     0
 7
     have a look at Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 4 for identification.
 8
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Your Honor, Exhibit 4 is the binder
 9
     of 12 months statements for the LLC supplier EFT account.
10
     Again --
11
               THE COURT: So admitted.
12
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor. Looking at
13
     the -- I think I misspoke, Your Honor. That was the Louisiana
14
     and Control States account.
15
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) I'm going to have the same questions
     I had about the previous accounts, Mr. Bashuk. Where are these
16
17
     statements produced?
18
          At Wells Fargo.
19
          And when are they received by Republic?
     Q
20
          Monthly.
     Α
21
          What 12 months do you have in that binder?
     Q
22
          June of 2011 through May of 2012.
     Α
23
          Where are funds deposited in the Louisiana and Control
2.4
     States EFT account originate? Where do they come from?
25
          That would be funded from the master account.
```

1 Q And where do funds that go out of that account go? 2 are debits created in that account? 3 Well, those would go to pay our suppliers and tax payments, perhaps, and customs and duties. 4 5 Okay. Now, you've testified that Maryland is not a 6 control state. 7 Correct. Α 8 And this is -- and Maryland is not a Louisiana. 9 Α No. And this is a Louisiana and Control States EFT account? 10 11 Α Correct. 12 So what's the relationship between this account, the 13 Louisiana and Control States EFT account, one of the five accounts seized, and Republic's business in Maryland? 14 15 Absolutely nothing. 16 Now, do EFTs from this account pay for product that's 17 delivered to Jessup, Maryland or anywhere else in Maryland? 18 No. 19 Do EFTs in this account pay taxes to the State of 20 Maryland? 21 No, they do not. Α 22 Was that true in 2011? 23 Α Yes. 2.4 Is it true in 2012? Q 25 Α Yes.

```
1
               MR. MACDOUGALL: May I approach one more time, Your
 2
     Honor?
 3
                THE COURT: Yes, sir.
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Mr. Bashuk, I'm going to hand you
 4
 5
     another binder marked Petitioner's Exhibit No. 5 for
     identification.
 6
 7
               MR. MACDOUGALL: For the record, Your Honor, I
 8
     believe I misspoke in the previous exhibit, calling it the
 9
     supplier and EFT account. That was the Louisiana and Control
10
     States account. That was Exhibit 4. This Exhibit 5 for
11
     identification is the LLC Supplier EFT account. And on the
12
     same basis, I would move it to admission.
13
                THE COURT: So admitted.
14
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor.
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) This is the fifth account on the
15
     chart, Mr. Bashuk. And the fifth account that was seized
16
17
     pursuant to the warrant in June 2012, LLC Supplier EFT account.
18
     Can you find that on the chart?
19
     Α
          T can.
          Okay. And that is in the second row just to the east of
20
21
     the center; is that right?
22
          I see it, yeah.
23
          Why is it called by that name?
2.4
          Well, because primarily what we do out of that account is
25
     make electronic payments to our supplier and things that are
```

related to the product like the taxes and customs fees. 1 2 Looking at Exhibit 5, where are those statements 3 produced? Wells Fargo. 4 5 And when are they received by Republic? 6 Α Monthly. 7 What time periods are reflected in Exhibit 5? Q 8 May of 2011 through May of 2012. 9 So where do the funds deposited in that account, the 10 supplier EFT account, go? 11 Those will be go to our suppliers, our big wine and spirit 12 suppliers that we have a relationship with, whereas part of the 13 agreement, they can debit our account for payment of product. 14 And where do they originate? 15 They will come from the master account at the end of the night and they'll fund that and it will zero out after those 16 17 funds are disbursed. This is the fifth seized account. What's the relationship 18 19 between this account, the LLC Supplier EFT account, the 20 statements in front of you Exhibit 5, and Republic's business 21 in Maryland? 22 We will pay for product that we buy for Maryland. We will 23 pay for it through this account. 2.4 Are wires issued from this account? 25 They are. Α

Are ACHs debited to this account? 1 Q 2 Oh, sorry -- I take it -- wires are not -- from this Α 3 account, no. Okay. How are funds withdrawn from this account? 4 5 Again, all electronically through the ACH mechanism. 6 Okay. So only ACHs are issued from this account? Q 7 By and large. But yes, that's the intent of it. Α 8 Now, can an ACH debit go to a foreign account, an offshore 9 account? 10 It can, but some -- all countries are different. It 11 actually is, in this case, slower than doing a wire. So we 12 typically do a wire and the wire is actually less costly. So 13 we do wires when it comes to that. 14 So is it correct that in the statements you have in front 15 of you, the May of 2011 and May of 2012, only ACHs were paid 16 from this account? 17 Correct. We would do wires from the master account, not from this one. 18 19 Mr. Bashuk, I'd like you to turn back to the agent's 20 affidavit, which has been marked Exhibit 2 in evidence. Do you have that? 21 22 I do. 23 I'd like you to turn to page 12 of that affidavit, if you 24 would, please. 25 Α Okay.

Now, you've testified about the Louisiana and Control 1 2 States EFT account in the second row, you've talked about the 3 statements that are in front of you, if you look at the bottom of the page, Agent Ward refers to the Louisiana and Control 4 5 States EFT account and swears as follows, "Bank records show 6 numerous debits made from this account during the May 2011 7 through May 2012 period to accounts owned by liquor 8 manufacturers and distributors. Many of these liquor 9 manufacturers are located offshore." Do you see where she says 10 that? 11 Α I do. 12 Is that a true statement? 13 We will make payments domestically to the banks that 14 these, you know, the subsidiaries of any company that may not 15 be domestic, but yeah. I mean it's all, you know, we'll make payments, but to domestic banks. 16 17 Let me ask the question a little differently. Because the manufacturers are located outside the United States, maybe, 18 19 does that mean the payments are transferred to offshore 20 accounts? 21 It does not. 22 Where do the payments go? 23 To U.S. subsidiaries, banks in the United States for the 2.4 U.S. subsidiaries of the suppliers if they happen to be 25 domiciled outside the country.

```
Is that true in every case?
 1
     Q
 2
     Α
          Yes.
 3
          In this account?
          Yes.
 4
     Α
 5
          Mr. Bashuk, would you please go to page 13 of the
 6
     affidavit, the next page?
 7
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Your Honor, for reference, this is
 8
     the first full paragraph on page 13.
 9
                THE COURT: Yes.
10
               MR. MACDOUGALL: The second sentence. Begins with
11
     the words, "Because some of the liquor manufacturers are
12
     located offshore, there is reason to believe that these funds
13
     are being transferred from accounts in the United States to
14
     accounts outside the United States to pay for the importation
15
     of liquor."
16
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Is that a true statement?
17
          It is not.
18
          Why is that a false statement?
19
          Because we don't do that. Again, were all domestic bank
20
     partners.
21
          On page 13, again, the lower half of the page, Agent Ward
22
     refers to the supplier EFT account and swears as follows:
23
     "Bank records show debits made from this account to liquor
2.4
     manufacturers and distributors, many of which are located
25
     offshore." Do you see that?
```

I do. 1 Α 2 Is that true? 3 No. 4 Why is it not true? 5 All of our activity out of this account would be ACHs to domestic banks. 6 7 Is that true in every case? 8 Yes. 9 Okay. Agent Ward then goes on to say, quote, "There is 10 probable cause to believe that this account also was used to 11 pay for liquor supplied by offshore manufacturers." Is that a 12 true statement? 13 Again, all of our payments are done domestically. 14 Have you -- I'm sorry? 15 We wire domestically to U.S. banks. 16 Have you reviewed the Wells Fargo bank records for the Q 17 supplier EFT account for the 12 months from May 2011 through May 2012? 18 19 I have. 20 Did you find any wire transfers to bank accounts outside 21 the United States from a supplier EFT account? 22 Α No. 23 Please go to the top of the next page, page 14. 2.4 MR. MACDOUGALL: Your Honor, for reference, this is 25 the carry over paragraph.

1 THE COURT: Yes. 2 (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Where Agent Ward swears, "U.S. 3 imports include Jameson via Irish Distilleries Limited and 4 Courvoisier SA, ultimately both Jameson and Courvoisier SA 5 products were obtained by Northside -- that's one of the two 6 liquor stores cited -- only from Republic, and then sold 7 illegally to New York customers." Do you see where she says 8 that? 9 I do. Α 10 Okay. What company owned the Courvoisier brand in 2011 11 and 2012? Jim Beam brands. 12 13 Jim Beam. And where is Jim Beam located? Deerfield, Illinois. 14 Α 15 Do you know where it's incorporated? 16 Illinois. Α 17 Do you know where Jim Beam's bank accounts are? 18 Illinois. 19 And in 2011 and 2012, based on your experience as 20 treasurer, how was Jim Beam paid for Courvoisier product that 21 was sold to Republic? 22 That would be via ACH out of that EFT account. 23 Do you know which bank was used by Jim Beam? 2.4 Northern Trust. Α 25 Do you know where Northern Trust is located?

Illinois. 1 Α 2 Where were Republic's payments transferred for purchases 3 of Courvoisier products during this period? 4 Northern Trust. 5 Were any of these transfers made to offshore bank 6 accounts? 7 They were not. 8 Now, if I was curious about where Jim Beam was located, 9 how would I find that out? 10 The internet, Google. 11 Q And how would I find out where it was incorporated? 12 Google. Α 13 And was that true in 2011? 14 Α Yeah, I believe --15 Was that true in 2012? 16 Yeah. Α 17 Okay. Going back to the affidavit, the agent makes reference to Jameson Irish Distilleries Limited. Do you know 18 19 who owns that company? Pernod Ricard. 20 21 Tell us about Pernod Ricard. What kind of company is 22 that? Where is it? 23 They're a large French spirits company. 2.4 Do they have a subsidiary in the United States? Q 25 Α They do.

1 Q What's the name of the company? 2 Pernod Ricard, U.S.A. Α 3 And where is that company located? 4 New York. Α 5 Where is it incorporated? 6 Α In --7 If you recall. Q 8 You know, I don't know. Delaware -- I do know. 9 Delaware. 10 Now, in 2011, 2012, how was Pernod Ricard paid for product 11 that was sold to Republic? Via ACH out of that EFT account. 12 13 Do you know which bank was used by Pernod Ricard to 14 receive payments during that time? 15 I do. Bank of America. 16 And which Bank of America office? Q 17 In New York. 18 Were any of the transfers for Jameson distilleries, one of 19 the two names cited by Agent Ward on page 14, made to offshore 20 bank accounts? 21 Α No. 22 Looking again at Agent Ward's affidavit, Petitioner's 23 Exhibit 2, on what day does it appear to have been signed? 2.4 I'm sorry. What page? Α 25 What date was it signed? Q

1 Α No. What page? 2 The last page, the final page. Q 3 June 5th, 2012. Do you recall what day of the week that was? 4 5 I believe it was a Tuesday. 6 When did you first learn that Republic's master 7 concentration account and the four other accounts named in the affidavit had been seized? 8 9 Sometime on Thursday afternoon of that week. 10 How did you learn that it happened? 11 Couple of things. We had some bank activity where the 12 EFTs were not moving. We actually had some people in Virginia 13 that had some paycheck issues. I believe those would have been 14 nondirect deposit paychecks. So I called Wells Fargo to find 15 out why we were having trouble with a couple of these items. 16 Where were you when all this happened? 17 My office. 18 What did you learn about the circumstances of this -- of 19 the first attempt by the government to seize the account? 20 Well, you know, I talked to Wells Fargo and they couldn't 21 really give me much information, but what I, you know, learned 22 later was that I think the attempt of -- all the activity was 23 really 24 hours earlier than it happened. 2.4 And what was the significance with regard to Republic's 25 7,000 employees of that difference of one day?

- Well, the direct deposits for our employees worked like 1 Α 2 the ACH where there's -- you initiate them and then it goes 3 through the federal system. You know, and so had this happened on Tuesday instead of Wednesday after -- you know, the direct 4 5 deposits were already released into the system, so had this 6 happened on Tuesday, which I believe it was scheduled to do, 7 none of the employees would get paid. 8 And those employees are where, just in Maryland? 9 No, they're in 26 states. 10 And how many were there in 2012? 11 Α 7,000. 12 Now, if I examine the records of the master concentration 13 account, how would I be able to find out when payroll was funded? 14 15 You would see a debit. You would see a -- see the activity in the payroll account. Then you'd see the money 16 17 transferred from the master account to match that disbursement 18 in that account on that day. 19 And what happened next after you learned that the seizure 20 had taken place and that checks were bouncing in Virginia? 21 What did you do next? 22 Well, when I talked to Wells Fargo, they actually told me 23 that I needed to call the -- Mr. Kay's office. 2.4
 - And what did you do next?
- 25 I called his office and I spoke with a woman who gave me a Α

time to call back later. 1 2 So we've talked about payroll. What was the consequence 3 of the freeze of the accounts in June of 2012 on Republic's credit relationship with its lenders -- now, you're the 4 5 treasurer, so that's your business, dealing with the credit 6 relationships; right? 7 Α Yes. 8 What was the consequence of the seizure? 9 Well, the seizure actually created what's called a 10 technical default. So you know, any sort of government action 11 or anything like this would constitute a technical default. 12 You know, the banks -- you know, we could have had our loans called. So we were in technical default -- and we have three 13 credit facilities and they're all cross-defaulted. So if we 14 15 default on one, we default on all three of them. And, you 16 know, we had over \$500 million of loans outstanding, which 17 could have theoretically been called if that happened. And what were the other immediate consequences if 18 19 Republic's bank accounts had remained frozen? Well, again, we were already seeing EFTs fail, so our 20 21 suppliers would not get paid, which obviously would be a bad 22 thing. We've got agreements with them there where there may be 23 a small cure period, but they're not going to want to do 2.4 business with us if we're not paying our bills. Our customers 25 can't meet their obligations. I'm sure plenty of them have

1 mortgage payments that are tied to the deposits that we make 2 for them every other week or, you know, they're on different 3 pay cycles, but for the most part they're on bimonthly. You know, we couldn't fund our company pension plan. You 4 5 know, we've got an obligation under ERISA for our 401(k) plan 6 to fund that. So pretty much everything would be halted. 7 Mr. Bashuk, when did you learn that the government was 8 demanding a payment of \$50 million in order to lift the seizure 9 of Republic's accounts? 10 That would have been, I actually called one of our 11 attorneys in Texas and they ended up talking to Mr. Kay's 12 office on our behalf. And it was some point on Friday that I 13 had heard that we needed to raise that money. 14 What did you do in an effort to meet that demand? Well, the first thing we had to do is we had to -- we were 15 in default so we had to get our bank group -- you know, we've 16 17 got ten banks in our main credit facility and one of our other ones. There's six or seven insurance companies and 18 19 agricultural banks, so we basically needed to explain to them 20 what happened -- and I didn't really know at that point, but we had to get a waiver of that default in order to even raise the 21 money. 22 23 And were you able to obtain a waiver? 2.4 We were. You know, over the weekend. So Monday morning 25 we finalized the waiver.

1 So you borrowed the money? 2 The week -- yeah. We did eventually -- they allowed --3 they created a waiver, which allowed them to then vote to actually allow us to borrow \$50 million more. 4 5 So first, we had to get the waiver for the default before 6 they would consider the, you know, the request for the \$50 7 million. 8 And that \$50 million borrowing is also reflected in the 9 Wells Fargo statements; is that correct? 10 Yeah, it is. 11 What kind of collateral secured that credit, the \$50 million credit? 12 13 Well, we've got several credit facilities, but the one 14 that we drew it on is based on our inventory, that's our 15 collateral. 16 What would have been the financial consequences if Wells Fargo had not waived the default, had not extended the \$50 17 18 million in credit to the company in June? 19 Well, we would have been out of business. Again, the 20 suppliers weren't being paid, the employees weren't being paid. 21 Our reputation was, you know, was harmed. 22 What was the immediate impact of that borrowing, the 23 borrowing \$50 million to be placed in escrow in response to the 2.4 government's demand? 25 Not sure I understand the question.

Well, your -- as a company, you're borrowing \$50 million, 1 2 you're placing it in escrow, it's not in working capital. 3 What's the consequence of that? Well, that was \$50 million that we didn't plan on. And so 4 5 that impacted our ability to fund our working capital. And you 6 know, some cap ex projects. And so it was just a nonplanned 7 expense. 8 And what are the consequences of the \$5 million still 9 being held in escrow? 10 Well, I think -- \$5 million is a lot of money, but, you 11 know, our banks are continually asking us for updates, you 12 know, after three years, we don't really have any answers. 13 think there's some worry that there's bigger issues that are 14 still unresolved, but we're obligated to give them a quarterly 15 update on where we stand with this. 16 What kind of independent financial reporting does the 17 company have? 18 We have -- PWC is our outside auditor, and so we have 19 audited financial statements. 20 What was the consequence of the \$50 million escrow and now 21 the \$5 million escrow in that reporting? 22 It's a footnote in our financial statements. 23 So finally, Mr. Bashuk, can you tell us generally, what 24 were the consequences to Republic and Republic's employees of 25 the seizure of the accounts in June 2012?

```
Like I said, ultimately, you know, those five accounts,
 1
     Α
 2
     it's really not five accounts. It's every account in the
 3
     company was frozen because of that. You know, even the
     nonfrozen depository accounts, the money sat there. None of
 4
 5
     our disbursement accounts could be funded whether they were
 6
     seized or not.
 7
          So none of our payroll accounts, the AP accounts, the EFT
 8
     accounts that had nothing to do with this, you know, we make,
 9
     like I said, all of our tax payments through that EFT account,
10
     so that couldn't happen.
11
          Payroll taxes couldn't be paid. You know, pension --
12
     pensions couldn't be funded, 401(k)s, we have like I said ERISA
13
     requirements and we couldn't do that either. Those get funded
     when the payroll gets funded, so it would actually go out that
14
15
     day as well when the payroll went out. So basically the
     company would be, you know, effectively shut down.
16
17
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Mr. Bashuk. No further
18
     questions, Your Honor.
19
               THE COURT: Thank you very much, Mr. MacDougall.
20
     Cross-examination, Mr. Kay.
21
               MR. KAY: Thank you very much, Your Honor.
22
                             CROSS-EXAMINATION
23
     BY MR. KAY:
2.4
          Mr. Bashuk, let's start at the end of that. You were
25
     talking about all these risks to the company because of the
```

seizure of the accounts, and what it took to get them 1 2 rectified. You said you called my office on Friday; is that 3 right? I think it was Thursday. I had gotten notification -- I 4 5 called Wells Fargo and they really couldn't talk about it, but they said that your office was expecting my call. 6 7 It was Friday, basically, when we started talking about 8 fixing this; correct? 9 Α Yes. 10 Isn't it true that I worked with you and with your company 11 and with your bankers in order to get this escrow situation set 12 up so that your company could get back in business right away? 13 And in fact, didn't I work through the weekend to make sure 14 that it got done on Monday, the next day? 15 Honestly, I don't really know your involvement at all. I've never spoken to you and our attorneys really worked behind 16 17 the scene, so I don't really know. But you made the contact with my office; correct? 18 19 I talked to a woman who said call back and I never did. 20 actually called our attorney. 21 And it was corrected on Monday; correct? Q 22 We worked through the weekend to get the bank approval and then at some point Monday afternoon the bank accounts were 23 2.4 unfrozen. 25 Right. And you don't dispute the fact that I was involved

1 in that process? 2 I don't really know. 3 Very good. Your Honor, just -- again, going backwards, you said that -- and I wrote this down, I'm not sure I got it 4 5 right -- that Courvoisier is made in Illinois? 6 I have no idea where it's physically made, but we pay for 7 it through, you know, banks --8 But as far as where it's made, did you say it's made in 9 Illinois? 10 I did not. 11 Courvoisier products are made overseas aren't they? 12 Um --Α 13 You don't even know, do you? 14 I don't. Α 15 Very good. What about Jameson in the affidavit that you read, Jameson via Irish Distilleries? Do you know where 16 17 Jameson products are made? 18 I assume they are made somewhere outside of the United 19 States. 20 That's correct. And when you said that they were made in 21 Illinois, that was incorrect? 22 I did not say they were made in Illinois. 23 What did you say then? 2.4 I said the company has got an affiliate in Illinois and we 25 pay the banks --

1 Q Let's go back to the statement that you read, that Mr. --2 THE COURT: MacDougall. 3 (BY MR. KAY) MacDougall -- asked you about from the affidavit. The statement reads, "U.S. imports included Jameson 4 5 via Irish Distilleries and Courvoisier." You said that was a false statement. 6 7 Can I see what you're -- tell me --8 Sure. It's on page 14 at the top. It's not false, is 9 it? 10 Where are you looking, please? 11 Top of page 14, sir. "U.S. imports including Jameson via 12 Irish Distilleries Limited." Is that part false? 13 This is your statement. Here, these are not my words about where they're obtained. I'm not sure I understand the 14 15 question. 16 Do you think that's a true statement, though, that U.S. 17 imports included Jameson via Irish Distilleries and Courvoisier? 18 19 Α Again, I don't know. 20 It's not a false statement, is it? 21 I don't really know. I just know how we pay --22 Very good. Let me go back to something else you said a 23 moment ago. You said that with regard to the 9442 account, 2.4 which is at the very top of the page, the master concentration 25 account, I think what you said was that during the period of a

1 day it can be zero or it can be a lot of money; correct? 2 It can, potentially. The goal is to pay --3 Is that a correct statement, it could be zero or a lot of money; correct? 4 5 I don't know what a lot of money is. It could have funds in the account. 6 7 And you said it could go all the way down to zero; 8 correct? 9 In theory. Mechanically, the goal is for it to -- any 10 excess that sits in the account -- again, you got to understand 11 there are going to be bank cutoffs --12 So it's not just theory, is it? Isn't it true that if you 13 look at the bank statements, doesn't it go down to zero? Yes 14 or no? 15 It depends. If you look at the month-end bank statements you will most likely see a balance, a small balance. 16 17 This book --18 That master account does not always have a zero balance, 19 no. 20 But it does on occasion? 21 It could possibly because the intent is for it to fund all 22 the accounts. 23 And it's a zero based account; correct? 2.4 The ones below it are ZBA up to the account. There's 25 always going to be a timing difference where every dollar does

```
1
     not got swept out --
 2
          So it's possible that it could be zero; correct?
 3
          It's possible.
 4
          Very good.
     Q
 5
          We would like it to be zero.
 6
          Very good. You would like it to be zero. So when the
 7
     seizure warrants were executed, there was a chance that we
 8
     could have gotten no money out of those accounts; correct?
 9
          But you seized other accounts as well.
10
          Well, I'm just asking about that one because that's the
11
     one you said could have been possibly zero; correct?
12
          It could be, but most likely --
13
          Very good. That's all I wanted to hear.
14
                THE COURT: Mr. Kay. Mr. Kay, do not interrupt the
15
     witness when they're answering.
16
               MR. KAY: Yes, Your Honor.
17
          (BY MR. KAY) Now, you said that there's a lot of products
18
     that RNDC Republic sells and distributes that are imported
19
     products; correct?
20
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Objection, Your Honor. I don't
21
     think that was the witness's testimony.
22
                THE COURT: Sustained. That's sustained.
23
            (BY MR. KAY) Do you believe that Republic National has
2.4
     products that it distributes that are imported from offshore?
25
          That are imported by whom?
     Α
```

```
1
     Q
          By Republic National Distributing Company.
2
          We don't import products.
     Α
 3
          You don't import products?
          We're not an importer by nature, but do we do business
 4
 5
     with companies that could import, I suspect we can.
 6
          Okay. Do you know what this -- let me show you Exhibit
     Q
7
     No. 1, do you know what this, a beverage journal?
8
          I know what a beverage journal is.
9
          Have you ever seen a beverage journal?
10
          I've seen the Atlanta Beverage Journal.
11
               THE COURT: Mr. Kay, are you referring to an exhibit
12
     that's in evidence now? What do you have in your hand? Is
13
     that Government Exhibit 1?
14
               MR. KAY: Yes, sir.
15
               THE COURT: All right. Government Exhibit 1, you'll
     mark it here.
16
17
               Government Exhibit 1 has been marked.
18
               You may proceed in evidence. It will introduced into
19
     evidence.
20
                MR. KAY: Thank you, Your Honor.
21
           (BY MR. KAY) Let me show you a quick couple pages in
     Q
22
     Government Exhibit 1, Mr. Bashuk. Particularly, it's marked
     as --
23
2.4
          Can I see the front cover of this, please? Okay.
25
          If you look at one of these pages, it's marked as 191 MD.
```

1 And I think the copies that I made for the Court go right to 2 that page. And it says here -- Canadian whiskey is one of the 3 products; correct? 4 I've never seen a Maryland Beverage Journal before. 5 Can you read this? "Canadian club." 6 Α 7 At the top of the page. Right there. Q 8 "Canadian whiskey." 9 Canadian whiskey. Where do you think that comes from? Do 10 you have any idea? 11 I'm going to guess Canada. 12 Very good. Turn to the next page. It says here "Irish 13 whiskey"; correct? 14 Α It does. 15 Do you know where that comes from? 16 I'm going to guess Ireland. Α 17 Very good. The next one says, "Japanese whiskey"; 18 correct? 19 Α Yup. 20 Any idea where that would come from? 21 Α Perhaps Japan. 22 None of those places are in the United States, are they? 23 Α Uh, no. 2.4 Very good. Look at this page. This is page 215 MD, and 25 it refers to a product called Absolut Vodka, does it not?

1 Α It does. 2 And at the top it says what? 3 "Imported." 4 Imported; correct? Imported means from offshore; 5 correct? By somebody, yes. 6 7 Very good. And right in between the words "Absolut" and 8 "Vodka," can you read what that says? You might need your 9 glasses. It says "Country of Sweden." 10 11 Very good. So that probably comes from Sweden, wouldn't 12 you agree? 13 I would agree. 14 MR. KAY: Just one more, Your Honor, then I'll quit. 15 (BY MR. KAY) Page 254 MD. Can you read the top of that page there? 16 17 "Vodka Premium Imported." Imported. And then what product are they talking about? 18 19 Α Svedka. 20 Svedka vodka. That's imported from -- do you know 21 where? 22 Α Um --23 Q Sweden? 24 Sounds right. Α 25 Very good. Thank you very much, sir. So you'd agree that Q

```
1
     Republic National does distribute products that are imported
2
     from other countries; correct?
 3
          I would agree that somebody imports the product into the
     United States and we sell it.
 4
 5
          Very good. Let me show you Government's Exhibit No. 11.
 6
     And this is just a page from one of the exhibits that's already
7
     in there. It's pertaining to --
8
               THE COURT: What exactly, is this government's --
9
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Objection.
10
               THE COURT: -- Exhibit 11. Yes, Mr. MacDougall?
11
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Objection -- been admitted into
12
     evidence.
13
               THE COURT: Again, under the same rule, absent --
14
     you've exchanged these exhibits, I gather; correct?
15
               MR. KAY: Yes, Your Honor.
               THE COURT: All right. Then under 107.5, it will be
16
17
     in evidence.
18
               MR. KAY: Very good, Your Honor.
19
          (BY MR. KAY) And this one page pertains to what
20
     account?
21
          The master account.
22
          The master account. And is there a number associated with
23
     that? You can use the last four digits.
2.4
         9442.
     Α
25
          Can you speak up a little bit, sir?
```

```
9442.
 1
     Α
 2
          Very good. And can you read what the first two words are
 3
     at the top of that page?
 4
          "Commercial checking account."
 5
          Would that indicate that 9442 account is the commercial
 6
     checking account?
 7
          Technically, I guess it is.
     Α
 8
          Well, that's what it says; correct?
 9
          That's what it says.
     Α
10
          Very good. If you go down a little further, what does it
11
     say right here in the middle of the page?
12
          "Commercial checking."
     Α
13
          Commercial checking; correct?
14
     Α
          Yeah.
15
          And does that indicate that that account is a commercial
     checking account?
16
17
     Α
          Yeah.
          Very good. And one more thing. Right here, go down three
18
19
     lines. Can you read what that says?
20
          Yeah, that's our master concentration account.
21
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Your Honor, can we get a page
22
     reference, please?
23
                THE COURT: Yes.
2.4
               MR. KAY: I'm sorry?
25
                THE COURT: What page?
```

```
1
               MR. KAY: It's a single-page exhibit, Exhibit 11.
 2
               THE COURT: And that is -- you said it was from
     another exhibit previously in evidence?
 3
 4
               MR. KAY: That's correct, Your Honor.
 5
               THE COURT: Which exhibit? I'm trying to stay with
 6
     you.
 7
               MR. KAY:
                        Oh, I'm sorry. I believe it's 4 -- 3 or 4
 8
     of petitioner's exhibits. It's this one, this binder. It
 9
     doesn't have a number on it.
10
               THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.
11
               MR. KAY: Thank you, Your Honor. It's in there.
12
          (BY MR. KAY) Just to summarize what we pointed out here,
13
     this 9442 account is marked as a commercial checking account
14
     and a master concentration account; correct?
15
          Sure.
16
          Is it fair to say that the statement in the affidavit
17
     about that account is a true one when it says that 9442 is a
18
     commercial checking account labeled master concentration
19
     account?
20
          Where are you looking, please?
21
               MR. KAY: Court's indulgence.
22
          (BY MR. KAY) For the record, it's one of the three
23
     statements that counsel has identified as a false statement.
2.4
     Here it is on page 12.
25
          The statement that is alleged to be false. Right there.
```

```
1
     Can you read that?
          "Count No. 9442 is a commercial checking account labeled
 2
 3
     master concentration account."
          Is that a false statement?
 4
       "Bank records show" --
 5
 6
         Stop right there.
     Q
 7
          -- routine transfers in amounts over $10,000 into two
 8
     additional accounts."
 9
          Just the first sentence there, Mr. Bashuk. First
10
     sentence.
11
          "Count No. 9442 is a commercial checking account labeled
12
     master concentration account -- yes, it's our master
     concentration account."
13
14
          Is that a true statement or false statement, sir?
     Q
15
          It's our master concentration account.
          Is it also a commercial checking account?
16
     Q
17
          Yeah, it's a commercial checking account.
     Α
          Is that a true statement?
18
19
     Α
          That statement by itself is correct.
20
          Very good. Thank you very much. Now, let me go to -- let
21
     me get back to the organization of these accounts.
22
               MR. KAY: Your Honor, I'm not going to take too long
23
     with this, I promise.
2.4
         (BY MR. KAY) You went through a long explanation of how
25
     all the accounts are interrelated. There's even an exhibit
```

```
1
     that purports to show that; correct?
2
     Α
          Yes.
 3
          Now, you say that the -- would you say that these bank
     accounts work well the way that they're set up?
 4
 5
          Yes, they do.
     Α
 6
          And are they set up this way in order to move money in a
7
     certain way to make things happen?
8
          They are set up logically to help us run our company.
9
          Did you set up these bank account this is way?
10
          Some have been long-standing, but for the most part --
11
     Q
          So --
12
          -- but predate me.
     Α
13
          Very good. But couldn't you have just had one bank
14
     account? In other words, money comes in, you deposit it, you
15
     write checks against it. Couldn't you have just done it with
16
     one account?
17
     Α
          No.
18
          Why?
19
          We do accounting. We have state P&Ls and so it would be
20
     very hard to do the accounting if we've got all the
21
     activities -- deposit side.
22
          Sorry. But there's a lot of functions that you talked
23
     about that you accomplished with these accounts as they are set
2.4
     up; correct?
25
          Yes.
     Α
```

So would you say that they're intentionally set up this 1 2 way? 3 Well, I don't know if the word is intentional. The way they -- you know, again, some of its legacy, but they work to 4 5 help us -- our ultimate goal is to fund the accounts and pay down our revolver when we have excess cash -- it works well. 6 7 They were not set up by accident, were they? 8 They were not set up by accident. 9 Very good. And you talked about the way money gets swept 10 from account to account. Would you say that that's an 11 accident, the way that the money is swept from account to 12 account? 13 No, it's not an accident. 14 In other words, the company wants the money to move that 15 way; correct, from account --The company's ultimate goal is to pay our employees, pay 16 17 our suppliers and hopefully pay down the loan with, you know, 18 profit. 19 Very good. And the way you pay your suppliers is through 20 that sweeping of money from account to account in order to get 21 to the supplier; correct? 22 The way we pay the supplier, very directly, either through 23 check or through an electronic payment. 2.4 Very good. So if you were to see a better way to organize 25 these accounts, you could change that and fix that; correct?

1 Α It depends. Depends what better --2 You couldn't change it? 3 We could do what we want to, sure. It's our right to 4 change our account structure. 5 Mr. Bashuk, this is awfully complicated for me. I'm a 6 simple guy and I have a checking account. So when I deposit 7 somebody's check into my account, it shows up on my statement 8 that that check was deposited. But I noticed that -- when you 9 look at these statements, checks don't show up there. Can you 10 tell me why that's so? 11 Well, you could look at the individual depository accounts 12 and there's going to be a deposit made every night that has 13 hundreds if not thousands of checks. So that detail exists 14 somewhere. 15 Very good. Let me show you Government's Exhibit No. 2, then ask you what that is. 16 17 It appears to be a check from something called Tech Pride 18 of America. 19 And is it payable to Republic National? 20 It is. Α 21 And is that a check that was deposited by Republic National into its accounts? 22 23 I don't know. 2.4 Now, how do the individual checks like this get into the 25 bank?

Again, typically in a market, in say, Jessup, Maryland, 1 2 we'll have an administrative person who will collect the checks 3 at the end of the night or in the afternoon, and we'll bundle -- at some point back in the older days, you make a bank 4 5 deposit and you actually physically make a deposit --But in 2011 --6 7 We would do check scanning. Again, there may be some 8 reason why we can't do it if a salesperson picks up a check 9 instead of, you know, what I'll call the 95 percent process, where the customers mail it to our office. 10 11 So you take those checks as they come in and you don't 12 send them to the bank? No, you put them together and you wait. You usually 13 14 bundle them up. And for the most part, you would scan them in 15 once a day, twice a day, maybe. 16 And what do you mean by that when you say, "scan them 17 in"? 18 You would have a machine that would actually scan the 19 check and so it would electronically be deposited into your 20 depository account. 21 Is there a name for that process? Q 22 We call it check scanning. Α 23 It's remote deposit? 2.4 Yes, remote deposit. Yes. Α 25 Remote deposit capture; correct? Q

1 Α Yes. 2 Otherwise known as check 21; correct? 3 Technically, sure. 4 Very good. Thank you very much. So the checks get 5 scanned into electronic file and then that electronic file gets 6 sent to the bank somehow; correct? 7 Correct. Α 8 Do you know how that's done? How it gets sent? It's an electronic transfer. 9 Α 10 Does it use a secured file protocol set up? 11 Α There's some IT, you know, thing behind it, yes. 12 Very good. Q 13 It's a file, yes. 14 It gets to the bank by electronic -- speed of light; 15 correct? 16 Speed of light. 17 Very good. And then it gets to the bank -- they don't get the actual checks? 18 19 Α No. 20 If the bank wanted to find a particular check, how would 21 they do that? 22 When you say, "The bank find a check" --23 If they wanted to see a particular copy of a check. 24 Well, they got the copy of the check as part of that 25 transmission -- there's a copy of that check.

And Government's Exhibit 2, that's in your hands there, is 1 2 that a individual check that would have been scanned into the 3 bank? I don't really know. 4 5 Let me show you Government's Exhibit 3, which is a 6 declaration from the bank, Wells Fargo. And you see there's a 7 highlighted portion there. Do you see that? 8 I do. 9 Can you read what that says? Can you lean into the 10 microphone so we can hear you? It says, "On February 2nd, 2012, check No. 5360 for 11 12 \$159,653.35 was deposited with credit for 495,657.51." 13 And does that refer to the check that's shown on 14 Exhibit No. 2? 15 It appears to be. That's the same check that's in your hand; correct? 16 Q 17 This is check No. 5360. So yeah, I would say so. 18 And that indicates that it's part of a large deposit; 19 correct? 20 Yup. So that would indicate that that check was scanned in as 21 Q 22 part of a larger deposit; correct? 23 Either scanned in or physically deposited. 2.4 You said a moment ago that you don't do those physical --Q 25 We may have a physical deposit still. It's not Α

```
1
     impossible.
2
          Either way, it would have been part of what you call a
 3
     bundle; correct?
 4
          Yes.
     Α
 5
          And what's the total amount shown on the deposit over here
 6
     on Exhibit 3?
 7
          $495,657.51.
     Α
8
          Very good. And so that would show up on your bank
9
     statement for the account 9332, the deposit amount; right?
10
          It should, yeah.
11
          Let me show you Government's Exhibit 4. I'll take this.
12
     Government's Exhibit 4. Do you see the highlighted --
13
          I do.
         -- amount there?
14
     Q
15
     Α
        Uh-huh.
16
          Is that the same amount -- indicate that that's the
     Q
17
     deposit; right?
18
          Yeah.
19
          So that deposit contains that particular check that we
20
     looked at, Exhibit No. 2; correct?
21
     Α
         Correct.
22
          So that's -- that check is involved in that deposit;
23
     correct?
2.4
     Α
         It appears to be.
25
         Let me show you what's marked as Government's Exhibit 5.
```

And you talked about the zero-based transfers of the funds. 1 So 2 getting back to Exhibit No. 4, that deposit, that big deposit 3 of 495,000 plus, that would have been part of a zero-based transfer at the end of the day; correct? 4 5 Well, what will happen is that balance should go into that securitization account, just like that day's deposit from 12 6 7 other Wells Fargo accounts -- and there's some outside Wells 8 Fargo accounts. 9 That's a "yes" then? 10 That's my answer to your question. 11 That's a "yes" -- it's part of the zero-based transfer at the end of the day? 12 13 Again, theoretically depending on the cut off, they don't 14 necessarily have to make the deposit on that day, but yes, they 15 should. Very good. Let me show you what's marked as Government's 16 17 Exhibit 5. Do you see another highlighted portion down there? 18 19 Α Uh-huh. 20 What account does that pertain to? 21 I believe that's the securitization, the accounts receivable securitization account. 22 23 That's the 9332 account, though; right? 2.4 I'm looking at the 9277 --Α 25 What account does that statement pertain to? It's at the Q

1 top of the page. This is the 9332 account. 2 3 That's the deposit account; correct? In Maryland. 4 Α 5 Right. And the 9332 -- and the highlighted portion you 6 just looked at down there, at the bottom, the zero-based 7 transfer, where was that money transferred to? 8 There was a transfer from that Maryland account to the 9 securitization account on February 2nd. 10 And does it say how much that transfer involved? 11 Α 4,846,206.57. 12 Now, based on what your testimony has been so far, isn't 13 that \$159,000 check on Exhibit No. 2 part of that transfer? 14 It should be. 15 It should be. That's right. So as far as it's involved in that transaction; correct? 16 17 Α Correct. Very good. Let me show you what's marked as Government's 18 19 Exhibit No. 6. And what account does that pertain to at the 20 top of the page? 21 This is account ending in 9277. 22 Very good. And that's where this money went from, from 23 the 9332 account; correct. 2.4 Yeah, this is the securitization account, yes. Α 25 And on Exhibit No. 5, the amount was \$4.8 million;

```
1
     correct?
 2
          Correct.
 3
          Does it show up on that account as income?
          It does.
 4
     Α
 5
          Very good. And so that same $159,000 check is part of
 6
     that deposit into that account; correct?
 7
          It appears to be, yes.
 8
          It's a zero-based transfer; correct? So it's part of
 9
     that.
10
          It appears to be part of that deposit based on the
11
     statements you just showed me.
12
          But that's what you testified about.
13
          That's how it works.
14
          That's how it works. I agree. So that's into the 9277
15
     account. Now, you also testified that there was a zero-based
16
     transfer out of 9277 account into another account; correct?
17
          That would ultimately end up in the master account, the
     master concentration account.
18
19
          So that would show up as a debit from the 9277 account;
20
     correct?
          Correct. That would be -- that 4 million would be one of
21
22
     the -- it will be one wire out of the securitization account
23
     that would include this, along with other -- other markets --
2.4
     Q
         Very good.
25
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Your Honor, I'm sorry. Could
```

Mr. Kay, for our purposes, identify the exhibit he's asking the 1 2 witness about and where on the exhibit? I'm having difficulty 3 following. 4 THE COURT: Yes, if you would, Mr. Kay. 5 MR. KAY: I'm sorry, Your Honor. I was a little too 6 quick there. 7 (BY MR. KAY) We're looking at now Exhibit No. 7 and 8 there's a highlighted portion there. Again, the date is the 9 same. It shows February 2nd; correct? 10 Yes. 11 And it shows a debit, which means a zero-based transfer 12 out of that account; correct? 13 Out of the -- this is the master account, so this would be 14 into the master account. 15 Out of which account? 16 Out of the securitization account. 17 Which is the 9277 account; correct? 18 Α Yes. 19 Q So, so far, we've traced that check all the way through to 20 this one, this transfer; correct? 21 Α Yes. 22 What's the amount of that transfer? 23 \$8,964,805 or 605. 2.4 That's very good. So on Exhibit No. 7, that \$8.9 million 25 transfer includes that one single check; doesn't it?

```
1
     Α
          Apparently.
 2
          Apparently. Thank you very much.
     Q
 3
               MR. KAY: Just a little bit more, Your Honor.
 4
               Let me show you -- I've got a whole statement here
 5
     from the 9264 account. This is Government's Exhibit No. 8.
 6
     The 9264 account, it's one of these books, Your Honor, that the
 7
     plaintiff put in -- petitioner put in.
 8
          (BY MR. KAY) Let me show you this statement. This is
 9
     Exhibit No. 8. This pertains to the 9264 account; correct?
10
          I don't know, I haven't seen it -- yes.
11
          And you said in your direct testimony that this account
12
     was used to pay your suppliers; correct?
13
          Among other things, yes.
          And so it would indicate in the statement who the
14
15
     suppliers are where the money goes; correct? Is that true?
16
          Say that again, what --
     Α
17
          Wouldn't the statement show who the payments are being
     made to?
18
19
     Α
          Yes.
20
          Very good. Now, I'm looking at page 15 of that exhibit
21
     number, again, Exhibit No. 8, page 15. Near the top, it will
22
     say 1529.
23
          Now, if I show you this page, there's some transactions in
2.4
     the middle of the page that I've highlighted. Can you tell me
25
     who those payments are made to?
```

```
MR. MACDOUGALL: Your Honor, the copy of Exhibit 8,
 1
 2
     Government's Exhibit 8, page 15, has no highlighting on it, the
 3
     copy we've seen. Could I --
 4
               MR. KAY: Probably doesn't show up on the copies. He
 5
     can certainly read it, Your Honor.
 6
               THE COURT: If you could show him what you're talking
 7
     about, Mr. Kay.
 8
               MR. KAY: Absolutely will do, it's about ten lines
 9
     down. Right there.
10
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Ready, Your Honor. This is the
11
     10th, 11th, and looks like 15th entry.
12
               Thank you, Your Honor.
13
               MR. KAY: You can borrow my highlighter if you
14
     want.
15
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you.
16
     Q
          (BY MR. KAY) Who are those payments made to, if you can
17
     read that?
18
          Something called Spirits Marque.
19
     Q
          And there's an "O" there too; correct?
20
          Zero, "O", I assume --
21
          And it says, after that it says, "ACH EFT"; correct?
     Q
22
     Α
          Yeah.
23
          And that's what you described before about how those
2.4
     payments were made; correct?
25
          To our nondomestic boutique spirits and wine, yeah.
```

- 1 Q So that's a payment to a nondomestic supplier; correct? 2 As I mentioned earlier, we do have some of those, yes. Α 3 And it says "ACH"? Primarily, we'll do that via wire. ACHs are typically 4 5 harder to do, depending on the country. 6 Now, just so I can connect a couple dots here, Your Honor. 7 When you say ACH, that stands for what? Automated 8 clearinghouse; correct? 9 Automated Clearinghouse Transfer. 10 And this automated clearinghouse, do you know how those 11 happen? 12 How those happen? 13 Yes. 14 Generally speaking, I do. 15 Okay. When this says an "ACH debit," can you explain what that means? 16 17 Well, in ACH domestically, the supplier would take the 18 money after giving us notification. We already cleared that 19 supplier to do so. 20 So for those specific transactions that were highlighted 21 that you looked at, those Spirits Marque One, those were not 22 conducted by you, were they? I mean, they were actually
 - Well, we would have authorized them to do that at one

conducted by someone else. They withdrew the money from the

23

2.4

25

account; correct?

- 1 point or another. 2 You certainly did. So you authorized them to make that 3 debit from that account; correct? Yeah. 4 5 Very good. And when they make that debit from the account, they don't go in there and take it themselves, now do 6 7 thev? 8 It's an automatic transfer once they've been authorized to do so. 9 10 But an ACH debit, there's only two ways to make that 11 happen. One is through the fed and the other one is through a 12 company called NACHA; correct? 13 I don't know the --14 Okay. We'll just skip how it happens. But the fact of 15 the matter is you don't direct that payment. You don't go in there and call the bank and say, "Can you wire these funds to 16 17 this particular company, " do you? 18 Well, if we do a wire, we will create a wire through 19 the -- you know, through our online banking. 20 But the ones you just looked at, you just identified, said ACH EFT. 21 22 But there's a process that our accounting folks in the 23 accounts payable department will go down with our suppliers to 24 authorize them to do any of this. 25 But the ACH EFT is done by preauthorization by the company

1 that's owed the money; correct? 2 Well, we are the ones that will authorize it. We're not 3 owed the money, but the -- I'm not sure your point. Can you lean into the microphone, please. 4 5 I'm not sure of your point. 6 But you authorize the company that's doing the debit; 7 correct? 8 At some point, you know, originally we'll -- again, we 9 process them to make sure that the invoices are correct. 10 Very good. Let me show you what's marked as Government's 11 Exhibit No. 10. And this -- can you read what it says at the 12 top? It says --13 "Spirits Marque One." 14 And that seems to be the same company that's referred to 15 in that bank statement; correct? 16 Α Yes. 17 And this pertains to product that was shipped to Republic 18 National; correct? It says so right on there. 19 Α Apparently, it does. 20 Very good. And do you know what product it pertains to? 21 It should indicate in that column right there in the middle. 22 It looks like it could be Svedka Vodka. 23 Svedka Vodka. Which we've already established is made in 2.4 Sweden; correct? 25 Yes. Α

1 So when you allowed that ACH debit to Spirits Marque One, 2 which this indicates is who it was billed from --3 This is the Constellation Wine Company. That's our -that's the company that we do business with where we will make 4 5 payments to their bank. Constellation is headquartered in New 6 York. 7 Very good. And those ACH EFTs we just looked at, did that 8 say Constellation or did it say Spirits Marque? 9 I didn't look, but this is Constellation Wine Company. 10 Are you saying that those -- the payments for that went to 11 Constellation 1? 12 I'm saying you're asking me a question -- I don't know 13 where the payment went. I'm just telling you what this invoice 14 says. 15 I'll Show you again. Can you read that -- where that 16 payment went. 17 MR. MACDOUGALL: Again, Your Honor, could we ask for 18 a reference, please? 19 THE COURT: Yes. 20 BY MR. KAY: 21 Oh, I'm sorry. Again, we're back to Exhibit No. 8. Same 22 page that we were looking at before that we had highlighted, 23 page 15. You just read it a moment ago. Where does that go? 2.4 Spirits Marque is part of Constellation. We pay 25 Constellation Wine Company, who apparently is the importer of

something called Spirit Marquee. And we'll pay Constellation 1 2 Wine Company in, I'm guessing, New York. 3 Very good. But this particular payment, these three other ones went to Spirits Marque, did they not? 4 5 They went to Constellation Wine Company in New York. I 6 don't see where it says where they went. It just says that's 7 the DBA of whatever it was. That's just what we put in our 8 system, perhaps, as the identifier of what kind of product it 9 is, but that's a domestic company. 10 A moment ago you said that these payments went to the 11 company that's indicated on the ACH. 12 You're asking me to read what it said. I told you that's 13 the name of the company. The payments went to whatever's on 14 the invoice for payment, which is Constellation Wine Company in 15 New York. 16 Very good. Going back to Exhibit No. 10, does it say who 17 the supplier -- shipper is? Something in Belgium was shipped and our -- the company we 18 19 do business with is Constellation Wine Company in New York. 20 Very good. And it was shipped by Alcomarques, 21 A-l-c-o-m-a-r-q-u-e-s, Belgium; correct? 22 Again, it sounds like it from that invoice. 23 That's what it says; correct? 2.4 THE COURT: Mr. Kay, this is not constructive or 25 helping the Court in any way at all. I understand your point

Redirect Examination Dennis Bushak

```
1
     is -- I'm sitting here and conducting a hearing. This is of no
 2
     significance to me at all. I've given you 15 or 20 minutes and
 3
     all you've establish is, is there are some checks that go to a
 4
     company somewhere in New York who then brought liquor into the
 5
     United States. This is of no help to me at all in determining
 6
     whether or not it's appropriate for the government to continue
 7
     to hold on -- require $5 million in escrow. So I've given you
 8
     a lot of latitude on this, but let's move on. This is of no
 9
     assistance to me at all right now.
10
               MR. KAY: Very good, Your Honor.
11
               I think that's all I need, Your Honor.
12
               THE COURT: Thank you. Is there any redirect,
13
     Mr. MacDougall?
14
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Just briefly, Your Honor.
15
               THE COURT: Well, finish up before lunch. Go ahead.
16
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Yes, sir.
17
               THE COURT: Just make it brief.
                           REDIRECT EXAMINATION
18
19
     BY MR. MACDOUGALL:
20
          Mr. Bashuk, Mr. Kay asked you repeatedly about Spirits
21
     Marque. Do you recall that?
22
          Yes.
23
          And your testimony was the payments were to Constellation;
2.4
     is that correct?
25
     Α
          It is.
```

Redirect Examination Dennis Bushak

```
Where is Constellation based?
1
     Q
2
     Α
          New York.
 3
          Victor, New York, right? Okay. And isn't it true that
 4
     Spirits Marque is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Constellation?
 5
          Honestly, I don't know what it is, but we made payments to
     Constellation for that invoice.
 6
 7
          A New York company. Mr. Kay --
8
               MR. MACDOUGALL: If I may approach Your Honor,
     briefly.
9
               THE COURT: Yes.
10
11
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Mr. Kay showed you Government's
12
     Exhibit 1, a catalog. Take a quick look at it again.
13
     asked you repeatedly about different brands of liquor and
     whether those brands were made outside the United States. Do
14
     you recall that testimony?
15
16
          I do.
     Α
17
          Okay. On June 5th, 6th, 7th, 2012 was any liquor, was any
     product seized by the government?
18
19
     Α
          No.
20
          What was seized?
21
          Our money.
     Α
22
          Money. And is your testimony the same as it was before
23
     that all of the payments for all of the liquor that you
2.4
     purchased were paid to bank accounts in the United States?
25
     Α
          Yes.
```

Redirect Examination Dennis Bushak

```
1
     Q
          Last question. Government Exhibit 11 is a statement, this
 2
     is just for housekeeping purposes to keep the record clear,
 3
     Your Honor. Exhibit 11 is one page. I think it's --
               THE COURT: From Government Exhibit 1, I believe;
 4
 5
     correct?
 6
               MR. MACDOUGALL: No, sir. It's attached to the
 7
     package as Government Exhibit 11. It's the last page.
 8
               THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.
 9
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) That is a statement that Mr. Kay
10
     asked you about, drawn on the master concentration account,
11
     what's the date of that statement?
12
          I'm sorry --
13
          If you look at Exhibit 11. Do you have that in front of
14
     you?
15
               MR. MACDOUGALL May I approach, Your Honor.
               THE COURT: Yes.
16
17
          (BY MR. MACDOUGALL) Just tell me the date of that
18
     statement.
19
     Α
          2010. It's July 31st, 2010 through August 31st of 2010.
20
          And how does that date relate to the 12 months of records
     that we've moved in evidence?
21
22
          It has no relationship to that.
23
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you.
2.4
               Your Honor, no further questions.
25
               THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Is there any
```

```
1
     recross just on these two points, Mr. Kay?
 2
               MR. KAY: No, Your Honor.
 3
               THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much.
     Mr. Bashuk. You may step down, sir.
 4
 5
               We'll take a break for lunch now. And we'll start
     again at 5 minutes after 2:00.
 6
 7
               (A recess was taken.)
 8
               THE COURT: Good afternoon everyone. We're ready to
 9
     continue with the hearing in this matter. With that,
10
     Mr. MacDougall, the next witness -- or Mr. Teslik. Thank
11
     you.
12
               MR. TESLIK: Thank you, Your Honor. We call Thomas
13
     White.
14
               THE COURT: All right. Mr. White.
15
               THE CLERK: Sir, could you please raise your right
     hand.
16
17
                           THOMAS MARTIN WHITE,
     called as a witness, being first duly sworn, was examined and
18
19
     testified as follows:
20
               THE WITNESS: I do.
21
               THE COURT: Thank you. Please be seated. Could you
22
     please speak loudly and clearly into the microphone and state
23
     and spell your last name for the record.
2.4
               THE WITNESS: Thomas Martin White, W-h-i-t-e.
25
                            DIRECT EXAMINATION
```

```
1
     BY MR. TESLIK:
2
          Mr. White, where did you grow up and go to school?
 3
          I grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland. Went to
 4
     high school in Prince George's County and Calvert County and
 5
     undergrad -- graduated from Salisbury State, which I guess is
 6
     now a university.
 7
          By whom are you employed today?
8
          Republic National Distributing Company.
9
          When did you go to work for Republic?
10
          1983.
11
          What's your current position with the company?
12
          Region president.
     Α
          Could you very briefly tell Judge Bennett what positions
13
14
     you've held at Republic since you went to work for them those
15
     years ago?
16
          Okay. I started as a district manager in Prince George's
17
     County. Held a number of positions at that level in Prince
     George's County, Anne Arundel County. Was division managers --
18
19
     a division manager overseeing an off-premise division which
20
     sells to package stores versus restaurants. Was ultimately the
21
     general manager of the Maryland operation, the general sales
22
     manager of the Maryland operation. At that time we had a
23
     Washington company and a Virginia company. Was over those
2.4
     companies.
25
          Then I was back in Maryland for a period of time. And in
```

2004, I moved to Florida as president in the state of Florida. 1 2 And then back to Maryland, overseeing five states. Actually, I 3 still live in Florida. Sorry. You're still based in Florida; is that correct? 4 5 Yes. 6 When did you come -- when did Maryland once again become 7 part of your responsibility, approximately? 8 May of 2011, middle of the year, 2011. 9 I'm going to ask you some questions about the Maryland operation in a moment, but first I'd like to follow up on some 10 11 questions from the testimony this morning. Are you familiar 12 with a spirit brand called Svedka Vodka? 13 I am. Who owns Svedka Vodka? 14 15 Constellation brands. 16 Do you know for how long Constellation brands has owned 17 Svedka Vodka? 18 They purchased it in 2007. 19 Q Where is Constellation brands headquartered? 20 Victor, New York. 21 And do you know in what state it's incorporated? Q 22 I believe Delaware. 23 There was some testimony this morning also about a company 2.4 called Spirits Marque One, and that's M-a-r-q-u-e, One. 25 you familiar with that company?

1 Α I am. 2 Where is that company headquartered? Q 3 New York. 4 Who owns Spirits Marque One? Q 5 Α Constellation. 6 How long has Constellation owned Spirits Marque One? Q 7 Α I believe it was 2007 when they purchased Svedka. 8 Could you very generally describe Republic's business in 9 the state of Maryland? 10 Republic National is the middle tier of the beverage 11 alcohol industry, so there are suppliers, wholesalers, and 12 retailers. So we are the wholesaler. We buy product from our 13 suppliers and distribute it to licensed premises in the state 14 of Maryland, both on premise and off premise. 15 How long has Republic been in business? Late 1800s. So prior to Prohibition. 16 17 So after Prohibition, let's start there. From the period after Prohibition until today, has the business of Republic in 18 19 Maryland been essentially the same as the business of Republic 20 in the other states in which it operates? 21 Republic National in Maryland, its predecessor 22 company started in the 50s, and the predecessor of that company 23 also operated in Washington, D.C. since right after 2.4 Prohibition. 25 And was that the Kronheim Company?

1 Α It was. 2 How many people are currently employed by Republic 3 nationwide? Over 9,100. 4 5 And how many of those employees are in the state of 6 Maryland? 7 480. Α 8 Could you very generally describe the jobs that the 9 employees of Republic in the state of Maryland hold? 10 Well, being a wholesaler, we're -- a lot of those are blue 11 collar jobs. We have office employees, salespeople in this 12 trade, warehousemen, truck drivers, warehouse workers. We have 13 a night shift. We move product at night and deliver during the day, so -- and then of course management and then executives. 14 15 As being the wholesaler in the three-tier system, can Republic -- can Republic sell directly to the end users or the 16 17 customers who purchase spirits? 18 No. 19 Q And why not? 20 It's illegal in the state for us to sell directly to the 21 consumer. 22 And similarly, in Maryland, can the distiller or the supplier of the spirits sell directly to the end user? 23 2.4 They have to go through the three-tier system. Α No. 25 And again, is that by virtue of the three-tier system?

1 Α Correct. 2 In Maryland, is the sale of alcoholic beverages 3 specifically the sale of spirits, regulated? Yes. 4 5 What government entity or entities regulate your business 6 in the state? 7 The state entity would be the comptroller of the 8 treasury. 9 Is that in your view as president of the Maryland 10 operation, active or passive regulation? Do you know what I 11 mean by that? 12 Well, I'd say they're very involved in our business, if 13 that's what you're asking. We work with them on a weekly basis to make sure we're following the guidelines set out in Article 14 15 (2)(B), which is the trade practice arm of the way we do business. They're also -- we're a tax collector for them. We 16 17 remit our sales tax collections to them. 18 Do you have reporting requirements to the comptroller? 19 Α We do. 20 How frequently do you make reports to the comptroller and 21 what do those reports entail? 22 MR. KAY: Objection, Your Honor. 23 THE COURT: Overruled. 2.4 THE WITNESS: We make reports -- we remit and make 25 reports to them on a monthly basis. And they involve the

gallonage sold in the state for both spirits and wine. 1 And 2 then the tax collected around those sales. 3 (BY MR. TESLIK) Does the comptroller participate at all in your training of your employees in Maryland? 4 5 They do. We ask them to come in and help with compliance 6 training. And on a regular basis, our management, our middle 7 level management would call the State if they had a question 8 about the legality of some activity they wanted to involve the 9 company in. 10 Could you generally describe your duties and 11 responsibilities as president of the region that includes 12 Maryland? 13 I oversee all operations and all of the stateside --14 oversee -- to include Maryland. My role is primarily -- and I 15 deal with the senior management staff around staffing and also our supplier relationships. 16 17 Are you in a position as president of the region to describe for Judge Bennett the way that the State of Maryland 18 19 is organized operationally by Republic? 20 We basically break up our sales force into 21 on-premise and off-premise channels. So on-premise are 22 restaurants, off-premise are package stores. That would be our 23 selling staff all the way up to our management staff. We have 2.4 warehousemen -- night warehousemen, day warehousemen, drivers 25 that deliver, as well as office staff to support all those

```
functions.
1
          So in any way, is Republic's operation divided or
2
 3
     segmented by county in Maryland?
          No.
 4
 5
          So are the retail stores that exist in Cecil County, for
 6
     example, handled any differently than any of the retail stores
 7
     handled elsewhere in the state?
8
          I don't believe so.
               MR. TESLIK: I'd like to marked for identification
9
10
     Exhibit No. 6.
11
               May I approach the witness, Your Honor?
12
               THE COURT: Yes, certainly.
13
            (BY MR. TESLIK) Mr. White, I'm showing you what we've
     marked for identification as Exhibit 6. Could you take a look
14
15
     at that document and let me know when you've had an adequate
     opportunity to do so.
16
17
               MR. TESLIK: Could the record reflect that we've
18
     given a copy of this to Mr. Kay?
19
               THE WITNESS: Go ahead.
20
               THE COURT: It will be so admitted.
21
          (BY MR. TESLIK) Mr. White, does Republic account for its
     Q
22
     sales volume nationally?
23
          Yes.
2.4
          Does it also account for its sales volume by state?
25
     Α
          Yes.
```

Now, within a state are sales records further broken down 1 2 to show the volume, for example, by either county or 3 retailer? Yes. 4 Α 5 Both or either? 6 Α Both. 7 Thank you. For example, in Maryland, does the company 8 have annual sales data for Republic sales in the state of 9 Maryland? Yes. It's on this sheet in red, \$333 million. 10 11 Let me get to that in just a moment. I just want --12 generally, does the company maintain sales data for its sales 13 in Cecil County by year? 14 I guess we could access that, yes. 15 And what about for individual retail establishments in Cecil County? Do you have those data? 16 17 Α Yes. 18 So looking at Exhibit No. 6, are you familiar with this 19 chart? 20 Α I am. 21 Did you help prepare it? Q 22 I did. Α 23 What exactly does the chart illustrate? 2.4 Well, the chart illustrates our overall volume revenue in 25 2011 for the calendar year, for the entire company, the

1 Maryland operation, Cecil County, and two stores that are in 2 question. 3 And was this chart prepared with your assistance using 4 uniform company data, that is, is the data that was used to 5 determine sales in Maryland the similar data that showed the 6 company's sales nationwide and so on? 7 Α Yes. 8 And does this chart, in your opinion, accurately reflect 9 and illustrate the underlying data? 10 Yes. 11 Now, you testified that the time period of this chart was 12 calendar year 2011; is that correct? 13 Correct. 14 The nationwide sales data is reflected in this pie chart 15 by which color of the circle? 16 It's blue. Α And the \$4,260,000,000, what does that number reflect? 17 The revenue for the year 2011 for Republic National 18 19 Distributing Company. 20 For that year, what part of that total amount was reflected by sales in Maryland? 21 22 That's in red. And it was \$333,500,000. 23 Were you able to determine for 2011 what the company's 2.4 gross sales were in Cecil County, Maryland? 25 We were. Α

1 Q And is that reflected by a color -- colored slice of the 2 pie? 3 Yes. 4 Which color is that? 5 Α Green. 6 And the number under green is \$12,780,000? Q 7 Α Correct. 8 What does that number reflect? 9 The revenue from stores in Cecil County. 10 And in this case, particularly with respect to the 11 affidavit of the government agent that's at issue in this 12 hearing, there was a reference to two retail stores in Cecil 13 County, Chesapeake and Northside. First, let me ask you, are 14 you familiar with those two stores? 15 Α Yes. Have you ever visited either one of them? 16 17 I visited Northside probably 15 years ago by my recollection. I've never visited Chesapeake. 18 19 Let's go back to Exhibit 6. Are the sales from those two stores, Republic sales that were made to those two stores in 20 21 2011, reflected on this chart? 22 They are. Α 23 And by what color slice? 2.4 Purple. Α 25 The red bar that has the \$333 million amount has a

percentage, 7.8 percent. Could you tell Judge Bennett what 1 2 that 7.8 percent is? 3 7.8 represents that percentage of our total revenue for RNDC for 2011. 4 5 Let's work down to Cecil County. That's the green slice. 6 That has a percentage, three-tenths of 1 percent? 7 Α Correct. 8 What does the three-tenths of 1 percent reflect? 9 The three-tenths of 1 percent are the revenue from Cecil 10 County to total RNDC business. 11 And finally, the purple block has four one-hundredths of 1 12 percent. What does that percentage reflect? 13 It says that the two stores that you mentioned earlier 14 represent four one-hundredths of a percent of our total RNDC 15 business. Are you familiar with the approximate profit margin that 16 17 was enjoyed by Republic in the state of Maryland in 2011? 18 I am. 19 Applying -- and would that profit margin apply to the 20 retail stores in Cecil County equivalently to its application to other retail stores in the state? 21 22 Α Yes. 23 If you applied that profit margin to the sales from the 2.4 two retail stores, Republic and -- sorry -- Northside and 25 Chesapeake, what would the profit to Republic from its

```
wholesale sales to those stores in 2011 have been?
 1
 2
          Approximately $300,000.
     Α
 3
          Do you recall being at work during the first week of June
     in 2012?
 4
 5
          I do.
 6
          Did something out of the ordinary occur at Republic during
 7
     that week?
 8
          Yes.
 9
          What was it -- what was it that occurred and how did you
10
     learn of it?
11
          I was in Florida and I got a call from our company
12
     president that our bank accounts were being seized and he asked
13
     me if I knew anything about it from the state of -- out of the
14
     state of Maryland, which I didn't at that time.
15
          What were your concerns as president of the region that
     included Maryland and a number of other states when you learned
16
17
     that your bank accounts had been seized?
          Well, I was very concerned because the seizure of the bank
18
19
     accounts basically brings the company to its knees. Both our
20
     employees, which we call associates, you know, their paychecks
21
     and their EFTs wouldn't be -- they wouldn't have gotten those
22
     that week. Not being able to meet their own personal needs.
23
     But probably more importantly, I was concerned about our
2.4
     suppliers, because our suppliers have agreements with us that
25
     this could break those agreements and cause them to choose
```

```
1
     other ways to distribute in the state.
 2
          So the combination of the suppliers -- and then the
 3
     customers, we would lose, I believe, the relationship that we
     have with our customers if we weren't in business. So it's
 4
 5
     devastating at just about every level.
 6
          What about with respect to your relationship to the
 7
     Maryland comptroller? Was that impacted at all in your view by
 8
     the bank accounts having been seized?
 9
          Well, it would have been because it would have seized the
10
     revenues that would normally go to the State for tax
11
     purposes that's collected -- that we collect --
12
          Had the warrant that caused the freezing of those accounts
13
     not been lifted, for how long do you believe the company could
14
     have survived?
15
          A very short period of time. I think it would be days
     before our suppliers -- they need to get to market every day,
16
17
     so I think the suppliers would have started to look elsewhere.
     I think, of course, the employees would have been looking for,
18
19
     you know, a place where they could go to work. So a very short
20
     period of time.
21
          What did Republic do in order to deal with the situation
22
     that presented itself at the end of that week in June of
23
     2012?
2.4
          Put up a $50 million bond to do business.
25
          Take a look again at Exhibit No. 6. What relationship, if
```

Cross-examination Thomas White

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any, based on your knowledge of the revenues and profits of
 1
 2
     Republic Nationwide in Maryland, what relationship did the
 3
     amount $50 million bear to the total sales of all products by
     Republic to Northside and Chesapeake?
 4
 5
          I don't think it had any bearing.
 6
          And what about with respect to the net profit that you
 7
     estimate to have been about $300,000 from the sales to those
 8
                 What relationship, if any, is there in your view
     two stores?
 9
     to that and $50 million that was seized?
10
          I don't think there's any relationship.
11
               MR. TESLIK: No further questions.
12
               THE COURT: Thank you very much, Mr. Teslik.
13
               Cross-examination, Mr. Kay.
                             CROSS-EXAMINATION
14
15
     BY MR. KAY:
16
          Mr. White, were any payroll accounts seized?
17
          I believe the accounts that we would have paid our
18
     employees from, I believe were.
19
          This chart, Exhibit No. 1, identifies 1, 2, 3, 4, I think
20
     five separate accounts that are called payroll accounts.
21
     none of them are highlighted in red, which would indicate they
22
     were seized; correct? None of them were seized?
23
          If you say so.
2.4
          All right. Thank you.
25
               MR. TESLIK: Your Honor, could I have one follow-up
```

Redirect Examination Thomas White

```
1
     question?
 2
               THE COURT: Yes, certainly.
 3
                           REDIRECT EXAMINATION
 4
     BY MR. TESLIK:
 5
          Do you have -- let's see, this -- what exhibit is this?
     Show you Exhibit No. 1. We'll put it up on the electronic
 6
 7
     chart, Mr. White.
 8
          While Mr. Kay suggested none of the payroll accounts were
 9
     seized, was the account that funded the payroll accounts
10
     seized?
11
     Α
        Yes.
12
               MR. TESLIK: Thank you. No further question.
13
               THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. White.
14
               Any further cross-examination on that Mr. Kay?
15
               MR. KAY:
                        No.
               THE COURT: You may step down, Mr. White.
16
17
               Thank you. Mr. MacDougall, anything -- any other
     witnesses to be called?
18
19
               MR. MACDOUGALL: No further witness.
20
               THE COURT: Any other presentation of evidence?
21
               MR. MACDOUGALL: No further presentation of
22
     evidence.
23
               THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Kay, any witnesses the
2.4
     government is going to call?
25
               MR. KAY: No, Your Honor.
```

```
THE COURT: Any further presentation of evidence?
 1
 2
               MR. KAY: None from the government.
 3
               THE COURT: I'll be glad to hear from counsel then in
 4
     argument here on this.
 5
               Mr. MacDougall, I'll be glad to hear from you.
 6
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you, Your Honor.
 7
               Your Honor, the evidence that the Court has heard
 8
     today, and that has sort of filtered through the process over
 9
     the last three and a half years, if it means anything, it means
10
     this. The seizure of this company's $50 million, the shut down
11
     of its accounts, the continuing effort to hold this money, have
12
     very little to do with the investigation or prosecution of a
13
     crime and everything to do about putting as much pressure as
     quickly as could be done on a company that had the resources to
14
15
     pay a very large settlement that was not the part of any
16
     penalty.
17
               The Cecil County stores, as the Court has heard, are
     very -- are infinitesimally small in the business world of
18
19
     RNDC. But Mr. Kay, and the government in this case, they don't
20
     want to collect a few thousand dollars. They want a very big
21
     score in 2012. They can't use the wire fraud statute and they
22
     can't use Section 1957 of the money laundering statutes.
23
               They can only seize large proceeds using
2.4
     1956(a)(1)(ii) (sic), and if there's any doubt about whether
25
     that was the plan, we can look to the writings of Stefan
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Cassella, formerly the U.S. Attorney's Office here, formerly
 1
 2
     the chief -- until recently, the asset forfeiture unit.
 3
               This is cited in our briefing, Your Honor. And
     Mr. Cassella writes, "The ability to forfeit property involved
 4
 5
     in a money laundering offense under Section 1956(a)(2)(A)
 6
     principal way to confiscate clean funds."
 7
               Confiscate clean funds. That's what this is about.
 8
     Taking this company's money and ringing a settlement out of it
 9
     that bears no relationship to even the most extreme theory the
10
     government has.
11
               Mr. Kay has offered a case U.S. v. Kivanc just now
12
     today. It's not part of his briefing. That case is apposite,
13
     Your Honor, on dramatically different facts and different
     findings. And if the Court is going to consider that case,
14
15
     we'd respectfully ask that we be allowed to brief on that in
     response.
16
17
               1956(a)(2)(A) is very clear, Your Honor. Whoever
     transports, transmits, or transfers a monetary instrument or
18
19
     funds from a place in the United States to or through a place
20
     outside the United States is liable for that offense. And in
     this case, that didn't happen. The Court has seen evidence in
21
22
     abundance that there was no -- and again, we're facing the
23
     difficulty of proving a negative, that there's no evidence in
```

But when an agent, and an Assistant U.S. Attorney, is

the record anywhere of money leaving this country.

2.4

25

2.4

going in to see a magistrate and you want to have the ability to seize very large amounts of money, you've got to show that. And so what happens -- we can find out what happens when we turn to Agent Ward's affidavit.

Just briefly, Your Honor, on page 11 of the affidavit, Agent Ward begins, "Subsequent to this transaction, your affiant obtained bank statements from Wachovia Bank, now Wells Fargo, for all accounts belonging to Republic." That states your credibility. I've looked at the records. I've done the work.

Magistrate Gallagher then hears from the affiant, from Agent Ward with respect to the Louisiana and Control States EFT. And it's fascinating to look at these sentences in juxtaposition. The first one, bank records show numerous debits made from this account during the May 2011 through the May 2012 period to accounts owned by liquor manufacturers and distributors. That's true, absolutely true. The Court's heard evidence on that.

Then the next sentence, "Many of these liquor manufacturers are located offshore." Maybe that's true, maybe it's not. The Court's heard that most of them are here in the United States. The impression created on a busy judge is, okay, we've got money going offshore, money coming from these accounts. All right. I'm okay in 1956(a)(2)(A).

But it was all false. We're not going to suggest to

2.4

the Court whether it was intentionally false or negligently false, it just wasn't real. What's not in the affidavit, Your Honor, is any reference to any transfer, any specific transfer outside the United States. No wire transfer confirmations, no receipts, nothing — notwithstanding the fact that Agent Ward attests at the beginning of her affidavit that she's looked at the bank accounts.

And there's only one reason that none of that was attached to the affidavit, because they don't exist. Money did not leave this country.

The government's policy appears to be, and the Court heard it again today, that if the name sounds foreign, that's all we need. If the name sounds exotic, that's all we need to convince a court that money is leaving the country.

Courvoisier Cognac. Well, the court heard testimony today that is not controverted — that was owned by Jim Beam in Deerfield, Illinois. The Court heard evidence just a few minutes ago when Mr. Kay sought to demonstrate that Svedka Vodka and a company Spirit Marque One was some exotic entity that's, in fact, owned by Constellation Liquors in Victor, New York.

These are all domestic transfers. The government had access to information sufficient to make that clear to them and they either ignored it or intentionally brought to the Court an affidavit that was not true. And if there's further question

2.4

or any remaining question about the motivation that the government had here, Your Honor, I would respectfully refer the Court to page 65 of the transcript of the first hearing in this case in December 2012, where Mr. Kay states on the record, "If we go through either a criminal trial against Mr. MacDougall's client or a civil forfeiture proceeding against the funds that we believe are forfeitable in this case, either one will be a public case. If that's the case, Mr. MacDougall's client will probably end up out of business because they will be unable to hold any licenses, their suppliers probably won't deal with them any longer, the likelihood of there being anything left for the Government to take at that point would be very high."

Your Honor, if there was ever a threat made in a courtroom, that's it. "Deal with me or I'm going to put you out of business. Pay me millions of dollars in settlement or I will use the authority of the U.S. Government to put you out of business." It's unmistakable, Your Honor.

We've had limited evidence here and I'm not suggesting that the Court needs anymore to reach a conclusion, but the question always has to be why should the Court believe any of this? I can come and tell you my theory of things, Your Honor, but why should you believe it?

Well, there's several reasons. One is

Mr. Cassella -- Mr. Kay's supervisor, said so. You want to
seize clean money, here's how you do it. And that's exactly

2.4

what they did. Moreover, if there's no effort, there has been no effort from the first time Mr. Bashuk -- from the court heard today got a call that paychecks were bouncing, to this very day, of the government saying, "Gee, maybe we made a mistake. Maybe we went too far. Maybe we shouldn't have taken your \$50 million and shut down your entire cash management system over a couple liquor stores in Cecil County. Let's see what we can do to work it out."

That still hasn't happened and we're back, taking up the Court's time, trying to make this right. And the third, Your Honor, and I don't mean to be, you know, someone who sounds like I'm full of bravado, but no case has been brought in three and a half years. This is not a complicated case, this is not about investigating a crime using the power of the grand jury and the government's ability to forfeit and seize assets to preserve them for later satisfaction following a criminal case.

This is a shake down. That's all it is. And the best evidence of that is there is no case. And there is no case because there is no evidence and there never was any probable cause.

So Your Honor, today we're asking for three forms of relief. The first being the one that we are here primarily to talk about. And that's the release of our \$5 million that's still held in escrow.

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THE COURT: Your original petition was to seek

release of the \$50 million held in escrow and pursuant to my order in December of 2012, you had \$45 million released and \$5 million was still held in the escrow account. So the original request for relief was the return -- the release, rather, of the \$50 million; correct? MR. MACDOUGALL: Yes, Your Honor. That's right. And our petition here, our request here, our motion here, is for the release of the remaining 5. But we also ask, respectfully ask the Court to consider vacating the seizure order and striking the affidavit. And the practical reason for our request to strike the affidavit is some day this case will be unsealed. And the Court has heard more than adequate -- more than adequate evidence, more than adequate testimony to conclude that this affidavit was contrived, that it makes allegations that are not true, that it's not worthy of being part of the record of this case. And the harm that the company will suffer if this is not struck and if this affidavit is ever released is substantial. THE COURT: That could be addressed in a subsequent proceeding, could it not, if and when there's some effort to unseal the documents?

certainly wait till that day. I would submit that the Court

MR. MACDOUGALL: It could, Your Honor. And we can

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has adequate evidence before it to make that decision now.
 1
                                                                  And
 2
     the Court has complete authority to vacate any order of this
 3
     court or strike any affidavit or any testimony --
 4
               THE COURT: That would be the same result as if we
 5
     had a Franks versus Delaware hearing, would it not?
 6
               MR. MACDOUGALL: I don't believe so, Your Honor,
 7
     because a Franks hearing would have permitted the petitioner in
 8
     this case to take testimony, to compel testimony from the
 9
     government and we have not sought to do that. We're simply
10
     asking that the harm that's been done to us and the harm that
11
     can potentially be done --
12
               THE COURT: My point to you, Mr. MacDougall, on that
     is, to the extent there's another striking of an affidavit and
13
     vacating of a warrant, which is essentially the relief
14
15
     oftentimes requested by criminal defendants in the context of a
16
     Franks versus Delaware hearing. That's a far more serious
17
     matter that has to await perhaps a greater development of a
     record of some sort, for example, the affiant, the Special
18
19
     Agent Lisa Ward, who it turns out I found out was the wife of
20
     Mr. Kay, the Assistant U.S. Attorney in this case. She has not
21
     testified here. I'm not saying she needed to testify here
22
     today, but in the context of a Franks versus Delaware hearing,
23
     she would clearly testify, would she not?
2.4
               MR. MACDOUGALL: She would, Your Honor. And you know
25
     the difficulty with a Franks hearing is always that a
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prospective defendant in a criminal case has the unusual ability to obtain evidence from the government, either preindictment or as part of an appeal. We're not seeking that. We don't think we're ever going to be charged, Your Honor. Just trying to make this right.

MR. MACDOUGALL: And on that score, Your Honor, and I

THE COURT: I understand.

2.4

know that the Court was once the U.S. Attorney here.

Mr. Teslik, Ms. Sprinzen, and I have all sat on that side of the courtroom. There's an obligation. There's an obligation when you come to a magistrate judge or a U.S. district judge, ex parte, in camera, to be square, to be forthright, to do it fairly and not to hide things, and certainly not to use, at the very best, jumbled language. At worst, and we think in truth, false statements, to get something you want to get.

That's not how the system works. Chief Justice
Roberts last year wrote the following in the case of Kaley v.

United States, it is cited in our briefing. "It takes a little imagination to see that seizure based entirely on ex parte proceedings create a heightened risk of error. Common sense tells us that secret decisions based only on one side of the story will prove inaccurate more often than those made after hearing both sides."

That's what happened here, Judge. You know, the founders drafted Article III, largely, I believe, to create a

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judiciary that is in the business of protecting the people from
 1
 2
     the government. And this is a situation in which you had a
 3
     target of government misconduct that has the resources to hire
 4
     a group of lawyers, litigate the case, and come into this
 5
     court.
 6
               Most people subjected to this kind of treatment
 7
     don't. Homeowners who have their homes seized improperly --
 8
     and the news is full of them these days, small business owners,
 9
     others who are subjected to this. And for them, and really,
10
     for every company and every person whose property is at risk,
     the prosecutors and the agents have an obligation to do it
11
12
     right. And this is an opportunity for this Court to make that
     clear by, as we've requested, striking the affidavit and
13
14
     vacating the warrant.
15
               Thank you, Your Honor.
16
               THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. MacDougall. I certainly
17
     understand your argument there. My reservation on the second
18
     and third items of relief that you've added here is that it's a
19
     serious enough matter that I think it requires a full record is
20
     the point. But I understand your argument. Thank you very
21
     much.
22
               MR. MACDOUGALL: Thank you.
23
               THE COURT: Mr. Kay, be glad to hear from you.
2.4
               MR. KAY: Thank you, Your Honor. I'll be brief.
```

Mr. MacDougall said that there's an obligation to do it right.

25

2.4

Well, Your Honor, we had the affidavit. The Court has looked at this affidavit. And we've had an opportunity to have a hearing about this affidavit. Mr. MacDougall has pointed to three things, very specific things that he's put in his motion that he has indicated are false statements.

Your Honor, the government submits that it has done it right. If Mr. MacDougall cannot prove that there was some false statement, those three statements, Your Honor, in reverse order are as follows:

Account No. 9442 is a commercial checking account labeled Master Concentration Account. Mr. MacDougall says that that's a false statement. His own witness testified that it was a true statement, Your Honor. It is a commercial checking account. And it is labeled the Master Concentration Account. So that was done right, Your Honor. That's a true statement.

Going back to the first supposedly or allegedly false statement, it says this, Your Honor: "Because some of the liquor manufacturers are located offshore," which is true. And the testimony today demonstrated that some of the liquor manufacturers are located offshore. "There is reason to believe that these funds are being transferred from accounts in the United States to accounts outside of the United States to pay for the importation of liquor."

If the suppliers are located offshore, then there is reason to believe that the money is going to move to those

```
suppliers. When Mr. Bashuk testified, he stated that -- he
 1
 2
     acknowledged first that there -- that the suppliers are located
 3
     offshore. He also acknowledged that the ACH debits were made
 4
     to pay for those offshore suppliers. That was a clear
 5
     statement that he made, Your Honor. It took me a while to get
 6
     him around to that point, but he did say exactly that. So I
 7
     think that this statement has proven to be absolutely true,
 8
     that there was reason to believe the payments --
 9
               THE COURT: Is there still reason to believe that,
10
     Mr. Kay?
11
               MR. KAY: Of course there is, Your Honor. Your
12
     Honor, a company like Svedka Vodka --
13
               THE COURT: So you're standing by -- you're standing
     by, not just in terms of -- and I'm not having a Franks hearing
14
15
     here. And your wife, Ms. Ward, has not had the opportunity to
16
     testify. But in terms of the three statements that are
17
     challenged, you're not only standing by the verbatim
     correctness of the statement, "because some of the liquor
18
19
     manufacturers are located offshore, there is reason to believe
20
     that these funds are being transferred from accounts in the
21
     United States to accounts outside the United States to pay for
22
     the importation of liquor." And the inference of that -- but
23
     you're standing by the allegation of international money
2.4
     laundering out of these accounts?
25
               MR. KAY: Absolutely, Your Honor. And that's a true
```

```
1
     statement. That's a true statement --
 2
               THE COURT: I'm not asking you that.
 3
               MR. KAY: Well, then what are you asking?
                           I'm asking you, as an officer of the
 4
               THE COURT:
 5
     Court -- I'm not going over the parsing of the words. And I'm
 6
     not making any judgment on the affidavit. I'm just asking if
 7
     the government is still -- you, as an officer of the Court, are
 8
     still contending that there is reason to believe that these
 9
     funds are being transferred from accounts in the United States
10
     to accounts outside the United States to pay for the
11
     importation of liquor?
12
               MR. KAY: Absolutely, Your Honor. It's a true
13
     statement and the government stands behind --
14
               THE COURT: That's not what I'm asking.
15
               MR. KAY: The government stands --
               THE COURT: I'm not getting there, Mr. Kay. I'll
16
17
     give you one more shot as an officer of the court. I'm not
     going to cross-examine you. I'm just asking, as an Assistant
18
19
     U.S. Attorney, who's been accused of unethical conduct that
20
     we'll get to in a moment, there are very specific challenges to
21
     you and your ethics. And I assume, I assume that you have
22
     notified the United States Attorney of this district as to the
23
     ethical challenges made against you. That's required. And so
2.4
     I'm assuming you clearly have let Mr. Rosenstein know of these
25
     ethical challenges that have been raised.
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2.4

My question to you is, are you still contending in the spirit of this, that that's in fact the case — not the accuracy of the statement. I'm not having a Franks versus Delaware hearing. I'm not even getting into the matter of willfulness or alleged willfulness or any falsity as to the affidavit. Just is that still the government's contention here?

MR. KAY: Is what the government's --

THE COURT: Is it the contention -- I'll get to the second one. The second statement is, "The specified accounts are also involved in money laundering transactions in violation of 1956(a)(2)(A), because each transaction was designed to move those same proceeds until they were moved offshore to purchase more liquor that was imported through the port of Baltimore."

The contention essentially being that there were material international transactions. And I understood from the briefing that the government is no longer contending now that there were material international transactions. I understand that your contention is there was no willful falsity or no intentional falsity. I understand you're now saying there is no falsity, that technically the language is correct. What I'm asking you is, as an officer of the court, representing the U.S. Government, are you still contending that there are material — there's evidence of material, international transfers, that would be violative of the international money

```
laundering laws as codified under 1956(a)(2)(A)?
 1
 2
               MR. KAY: Yes, Your Honor.
 3
               THE COURT: You still are contending that?
               MR. KAY: Yes, Your Honor.
 4
 5
               THE COURT: So the record will so reflect.
               MR. KAY: The documents that we put into evidence --
 6
 7
               THE COURT: Given that this is becoming increasingly
 8
     important in light of the allegations here, I want to make sure
 9
     that it's clear you're still contending that.
10
               MR. KAY: Of course, Your Honor.
11
               THE COURT: Again, I'll have to talk to
12
     Mr. Rosenstein about the allegations that have been made
13
     against you. I just want to make sure in fairness to you that
14
     you're still contending that. So go ahead, Mr. Kay.
15
               MR. KAY: Of course, Your Honor. Of course, we're
     still contending that. It's a true statement in there. And
16
17
     what the Court's point is, you're asking me whether we believe
     that there were transfers of funds from the United States
18
19
     offshore to accounts offshore that relate to these specific
20
     transactions. And the answer to that is yes. We got this
21
     document, Your Honor, this one about Spirits Marque One --
22
               THE COURT: I'm familiar with what your
23
     cross-examination was, with respect to trying to track funds
2.4
     here, Mr. Kay. We're not ligating any criminal case here. I'm
25
     just trying to make sure that you, as an officer of the court,
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are still contending, still contending some three-plus years
 1
 2
     after these accounts were frozen, that it is still your
 3
     contention that there is a willful violation of 1956(a)(2)(A),
     and that there is evidence in support of that.
 4
 5
               MR. KAY: Yes, Your Honor.
 6
               THE COURT: Okay. All right. Fine.
 7
               MR. KAY: Very good. Your Honor, going on to -- you
 8
     already went on to the second statement, the specified
 9
     accounts. Your Honor, the government's first position is that
     that is a statement, it's a conclusion. It's a statement of
10
11
     law. It's not a statement of fact, so it's not false. And
12
     there are no false statements in any of those three statements
13
     that they've identified --
14
               THE COURT: Again, so the record is clear, I'm not
15
     making any finding on falsity at all. I'm not making a finding
16
     on falsity.
17
               MR. KAY: Very good, Your Honor. And without such a
     finding, Your Honor, there cannot be a Franks hearing with the
18
19
     affiant testifying. And I think that we demonstrated today
20
     that the motion -- petition as put forth by Republic National
     is without merit.
21
22
               THE COURT: All right. Well, thank you very much,
23
     Mr. Kay.
2.4
               The petition that was originally filed in this case
25
     was for the release of $50 million escrow account that was
```

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required to be placed in the escrow account of the law firm account of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.

The briefings here have noted that the petitioner has noted what it contends are three allegedly false statements. Specifically, because some of the liquor manufacturers are located offshore, there is reason to believe that these funds are being transferred from accounts in the United States to accounts outside the United States to pay for the importation of liquor.

Second, the specified accounts are also involved in money laundering transactions in violation of 1956(a)(2)(A), because each transaction was designed to move those same proceeds until they were moved offshore to purchase more liquor that was imported through the port of Baltimore.

And, finally, that account No. 9442 is a commercial checking account labeled Master Concentration Account. The petitioner seeks not only the release of the remaining funds held in escrow, specifically \$5 million, but seeks to have this Court strike the government affidavit from the record of the case and to vacate the search warrant issued on June 6th, 2012.

In the context of a Franks versus Delaware hearing in a criminal case -- and Franks versus Delaware applies to a criminal case, not to a Rule 41(g) proceeding, but in the context of Franks versus Delaware, the -- a defendant in a criminal case must make a dual showing, which incorporates both

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a subjective and an objective threshold component as the 4th Circuit has recognized in United States versus Colkley, C-o-l-k-l-e-y, 899 F.2d 297, a 4th Circuit opinion in 1990.
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This has not been a Franks versus Delaware hearing. Presumably, we're not going to get to a Franks versus Delaware hearing where the defendant would need to make a substantial preliminary showing that a false statement was knowingly and intentionally, or with reckless disregard for the truth, included in a warrant affidavit. And secondly, that the offending information must be essential to the probable cause determination. I'm not making any finding as to that.

Somewhat to my amazement is based upon -- let's just say that I'm somewhat surprised that based upon the submissions of the parties, and what I thought was clearly an acknowledgment by the government that there really isn't any material international transfer that has been evidenced, as it turns out, many times government inquiries don't turn out as expected, it is still apparently the position of the government that there's some sort of evidence of willful violation of the international money laundering laws.

The -- I had noted in December at the December 13, 2012 hearing that was two -- over two years and eight months ago, I had found that as far under Rule 41(g) analysis, that the petitioner, Republic National, has indeed suffered from a deprivation of property. And in light of the proportionality,

2.4

or lack thereof, I ordered that \$45 million be released from the escrow account that I initially held, based upon the evidence before me, that \$5 million remain in that account pending the outcome of the government's presumed future civil forfeiture proceeding.

We're now here two years and eight months later. The only reason we're here is because I finally noted that nothing had happened in this case for some two and a half years and asked for a status report. That was reflected by papers No. 20 and 21. Understandably, Republic National Distributing Company had to reluctantly respond, because when you represent an entity that's been subject to government action, you are at —really, at the mercy of government authorities, as

Mr. MacDougall has essentially — to which he's essentially alluded in his argument here today.

So we scheduled a hearing. And we began on June the 12th. I permitted this to be continued to give the government an opportunity to respond with respect to some very real concerns that I have here in this case. And now that has been — we've had the summer to get ready for this and essentially what has been presented to me is the most sketchy of evidence as to the matter of any type of material international transfer that would be within the ambit of the international money laundering laws. And indeed, the government has presented no evidence, other than just a

2.4

cross-examination of Republic National Distributing Company officials.

This case cries out for the resolution by the Court.

And what is even more troubling to me is that there are

allegations of ethical impropriety as to Assistant U.S.

Attorney Richard Kay, which I presume, Mr. Kay, consistent with
the office policy of the U.S. Attorney's Office, has advised
his supervisors of.

This record will reflect, Mr. Kay, that you are now being instructed that immediately after this hearing, you will so advise Rod Rosenstein, the U.S. Attorney, of the ethical challenges that have been made to you. And I'm not making any finding on the ethical challenges. But they are in this sealed record before me and they cause me sufficient concern that after advising Mr. Rosenstein personally of these charges that have been raised against you in paper Nos. 29 and 32 of the defendant — of the petitioner's submissions, if you'll have Mr. Rosenstein call me, please, Mr. Kay. And, again, I'm not passing any judgment. But they're serious enough to be raised against an Assistant U.S. Attorney in this Court, that the Court is instructing you to have the U.S. Attorney contact me.

Presently before this Court is the petition of
Republic National Distributing Company for the release of funds
held in escrow. Presently remaining in the escrow account of
Republic National's escrow agent, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer &

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Feld, LLP, pursuant to this Court's amended order of December 12 -- December 17, 2012, paper No. 18, is \$5 million. After no action on this matter for over two years, this Court required a status report from the petitioner, Republic National and the government, as reflected in paper Nos. 20 and 21. As I've said, a sealed motions hearing was held on June 12th, 2015. And the hearing was continued until today.

For the reasons that I've set forth here on the record, this Court has previously held that there was a deprivation of property within the meaning of Rule 41(g) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and has ordered that \$5 million shall remain in escrow with Republic National's escrow agent, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, pending further order of this Court. Further order of this Court is now proceeding. And it's been over two and a half years. It's been two years and eight months.

This Court having received evidence, reviewed submissions of the parties, and having heard argument of counsel at the sealed hearing, and for the reasons stated on the record that I'll further expound upon, finds that Republic National Distributing Company has continued to be aggrieved by the deprivation of property for an unreasonable period of time, without sufficient legal basis having been proffered by the respondent government pursuant to Rule 41(g).

And Rule 41(g) provides that "A person aggrieved by

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an unlawful search and seizure of property, or by the deprivation of property, may move for the property's return."

So the record is clear, I am not making a finding at this point that there has been an unlawful search and seizure. I am making a finding that there has been deprivation of the property for an unreasonable period of time, not to be permitted by the rules.

Accordingly, it's hereby ordered, this 27th day of August, 2015, that Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, as the escrow agent in possession of \$5 million, which has remained in escrow, is hereby to disburse the remaining \$5 million to Republic National Distributing Company and may do so immediately, this afternoon.

As the original relief sought in the petition for release has now been obtained, it will be further ordered that the clerk of the court shall close this case this afternoon.

And I would note, specifically, that with respect to the evidence that's presented, that I'm not making a finding that there were material false statements or omissions by Lisa Ward at this point in time. I'm not making a finding one way or the other. I don't need to make that finding at this point. I'm satisfied, based on the evidence presented by Republic National and the almost — the literally no evidence presented by the government, other than efforts of cross-examination of two witnesses from Republic National, I'm satisfied that any

2.4

notion of international transactions or offshore movement of money that would be within the ambit of 18, united States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A), are highly questionable at best and certainly don't warrant the continued seizure of funds in this case.

And the nature of the seized accounts, I'm satisfied from review of the manner in which a large national company is structured, and the manner in which accounts are used for different purposes, which is absolutely fundamental. Large national corporations don't have one account. And the notion to take — to try to jump start that to infer that there's some impropriety here, I've had the better part of the day listening to this, and that is tenuous at best, if not a stretch.

So there is -- the nature of these seized accounts clearly does not in any way support any notion that there's international money laundering going on here. I am not going to address the allegations with respect to what was or was not disclosed to Magistrate Judge Gallagher with respect to Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Kay and Special Agent Lisa Ward, the fact that they are married and husband and wife, and she was the attesting agent here. I'm not making any finding as to what should or should not have been revealed to Judge Gallagher. Or furthermore, in addition, the matter of the conflict of interest that petitioner's counsel has suggested, warrants further scrutiny. And paper No. 32, I'm not making

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any finding there as well, given that that's a serious matter.

But for the reasons that I've indicated on the record, some two years and eight months after I ordered the release of escrow funds and ordered that \$5 million remain in this account, time is up for the government. American citizens, be they corporate or individual, are entitled to some due process. And the notion that the government can, at its own pleasure, decide when it decides to return the money seized falls on deaf ears of this Court. So I'm signing an order to that effect today.

Mr. MacDougall, your client, your law firm can immediately release those escrow funds within the next matter of minutes, and send them right to Republic National's account. They're no longer held in escrow.

Mr. Clerk, I've signed the appropriate order here and this case shall be closed. And this case having now been closed, there's no pending matter before me.

Mr. Clerk, to the extent that there is any related case that's filed, be it criminal or civil in this case, it is to be assigned to me, and the clerk will be so instructed.

And with that, this concludes this hearing. And again, Mr. Kay, if you'll make sure Mr. Rosenstein contacts me in light of the ethical allegations that have been made against you.

Is there anything further from the point of view of

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1
     the petitioner, Mr. MacDougall?
 2
               MR. MACDOUGALL: No, Your Honor, thank you.
 3
                THE COURT:
                           Anything further, Mr. Kay, from the point
     of view of the government?
 4
 5
               MR. KAY: Nothing, Your Honor. Thank you.
 6
               THE COURT: You'll please stand and address the
 7
     Court.
8
               MR. KAY: Nothing, Your Honor.
 9
               THE COURT: All right. Assistant U.S. Attorneys
10
     stand up when they address the Court, Mr. Kay. They don't sit
     in a chair. None of them do.
11
                Is there anything further from the point of view of
12
13
     the government?
14
               MR. KAY: No, Your Honor.
15
               THE COURT: Good. I'll expect Mr. Rosenstein's call
     by 5:00 o'clock today. Court stands adjourned.
16
17
                (The proceedings were concluded.)
18
               I, Christine Asif, RPR, CRR, do hereby certify that
     the foregoing is a correct transcript from the stenographic
19
     record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.
20
21
                             Christine T. Asif
22
                          Official Court Reporter
23
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